

Balmy House gets curiouser and curiouser

WHEN Eric Illsley (Lab, Barnsley Central) intervened in yesterday's debate on Northern Ireland to mention the shock to Short Brothers caused by the demise of Fokker, Deputy Speaker Dame Janet Fookes sat up sharply. Had she heard something unparliamentary?

She had not. You could have slept through yesterday afternoon at the Commons and missed nothing but a brief, sparkling exchange with Michael Heseltine.

It was a planted question, of course. All too often what masquerades as an impromptu parliamentary exchange has in reality been scripted beforehand.

Ministers prime their fa-

vourite poodles on the backbenches with the desired question. It is duly asked, and the minister comes back quick as a flash with his prepared reply. Boom-boom. It only works, however, when the script is good enough and the minister is as professional a showman as Michael Heseltine.

Tory MPs had read reports in Saturday's *Times* of a rift between Peter Mandelson, Tony Blair's communications guru, and Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor. During questions to the Deputy Prime Minister yesterday Jacques Arnold (C, Gravesend) asked Mr Heseltine whether he had had any problem with colleagues in the Cabinet refus-



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

ing to speak to each other for 18 months.

The Government benches hugged themselves with pleasure as Heseltine replied. He shared Mr Arnold's compassion for the Shadow Cabinet. "I would be very happy to make an offer to Mr Blair to hold some sort of reception so that members of the Shadow Cabinet can get together in convivial circumstances and sort out their difficulties in private," he said.

The Tories, bruised as they are, were enjoying this, and

for once Dennis Skinner failed to spoil their fun. He added to it, rising to accuse Heseltine of cheek. Ah, said Hezza, for all the world as though Skinner's intervention was in his script. "I am very happy to invite you to the reception too — and then the Shadow Cabinet can really learn what 'new Labour' is all about."

It was a warm afternoon. MPs leaned back on the benches to try to picture the party Mr Heseltine might give for the Shadow Cabinet.

Your sketchwriter has day-

dreams of his own. It would be a tea party: the Mad Hezza's Tea Party. The Shadow Chancellor would be Brown March Hare and Peter Mandelson would have to be Alice. Hezza would soon have the two of them talking to each other...

"Take some more tea," the March Hare said to Alice, very earnestly.

"I've had nothing yet," Alice replied in an offended tone, "so I can't take more."

Robin Cook, regarded as too small and hairy to be important in new Labour but actually rather bright, would have to be the Dormouse, squeaking impotently from the teapot as the Brown March Hare squashes the lid down on him each time he pops up. The

dialogue would have about as much logical coherence as the assorted utterances of Opposition frontbenchers...

"Have some wine," the March Hare said in an encouraging tone. Alice looked all round the table, but there was nothing on it but tea. "I don't see any wine," she remarked. "There isn't any," said the Hare.

But what part would Brown's and Mandelson's Leader play in our *Alice in Wonderland* world? Remember the Cheshire Cat?

"This time it vanished quite slowly, beginning with the end of the tail, and ending with the grin, which remained for some time after the rest of it had gone."

Mayhew welcomes Sinn Fein hint of fresh ceasefire

By NICHOLAS WATT AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY, AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

SIR PATRICK MAYHEW fuelled intense speculation about a renewed IRA ceasefire yesterday when he welcomed Sinn Fein's claim that the IRA was "open to persuasion" about a new truce.

In a sign of renewed co-operation with Sinn Fein, the Northern Ireland Secretary, also made clear that he accepted its demands that political parties could raise any issue at the all-party talks that are due to start on June 10.

A warmer relationship between London and Sinn Fein was also signalled by a positive response from Gerry Adams's party, which said that Sir Patrick had raised the "possibility of a meaningful discussion on constitutional and political change".

British ministers, who remain adamant that Sinn Fein can join the talks only if the IRA ceasefire is restored, were backed yesterday by strong pressure from Washington aimed at bringing the recent bombing campaign to an end.

After months of private pressure, the White House began publicly urging the IRA to restore its ceasefire. Nancy Soderberg, President Clinton's senior Irish affairs expert, said: "It is now getting so that there's no justification for a continued bombing campaign." In another significant



Adams makes positive response to Sir Patrick

statement from Washington, Senator Chris Dodd, the Democratic Party chairman, told BBC radio that "until this ceasefire is resumed I would strongly urge the President not to be extending visas to Gerry Adams". Before now Mr Dodd has strongly supported visas for the Sinn Fein leader. Last year he played a key role in persuading Mr Clinton to let Mr Adams raise funds in America.

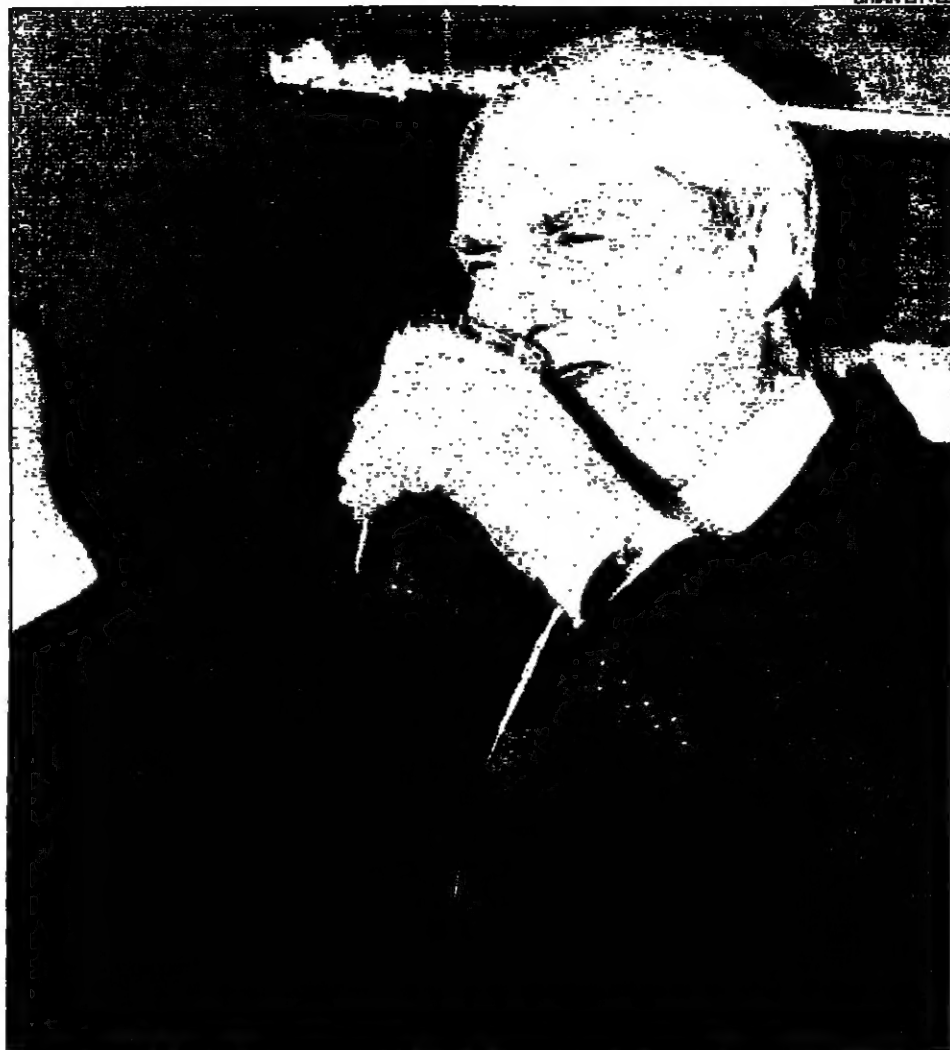
The Washington moves came as British ministers prepare to accept plans for the destruction of terrorist weapons to be discussed separately from the main talks. Although

the proposal, put forward last month by the Irish Government, has angered Unionists, ministers believe that separate discussions are the only way of keeping the talks going.

Sir Patrick yesterday underlined the importance of keeping all the parties in negotiations once the talks begin. Speaking in Belfast, he said that London and Dublin had agreed that there would be "general discussions on an open agenda with nothing pre-ordained, nothing ruled out, nothing ruled in. It is just as important that that should be made clear as it is important that the issue of decommissioning has got to be addressed."

He insisted that political parties would have to sign up to Mitchell principles of non-violence at the start of talks. His comments, however, show that the Government is moving closer to Dublin's insistence that arms should not become a log-jamming issue. Both London and Washington are anxious to ensure that nationalists do not boycott the talks because of disagreement over decommissioning.

However, John Major was warned yesterday that the talks could collapse unless he rejects calls for separate discussions over the destruction of terrorist weapons. David



Sir Patrick Mayhew samples a pint at the opening of a new Belfast brewhouse

Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, met Mr Major to underline deep fears over the suggestions, which Unionists claim could allow Sinn Fein the chance to delay moves towards decommissioning.

Amid clear signs that British ministers are preparing the ground for separate talks, Downing Street officials said last night that the "precise

mechanism" for decommissioning had still to be resolved. Mr Trimble has made clear to Mr Major that Unionists will be satisfied with nothing short of an actual commitment to decommissioning before talks continue.

Within hours of Sir Patrick's comments, Mitchell McLaughlin, Sinn Fein's national chairman, gave an upbeat re-

sponse. He told BBC Radio Ulster: "I think it is a very interesting comment [from Sir Patrick Mayhew]. It certainly represents a change of rhetoric... The comments do open up the possibility of a meaningful discussion on constitutional and political change."

Republicans are said to be engaged in an intense internal debate about their next move.

Barclays bids to run student loans

By JOHN O'LEARY AND LINDSAY COOK

BARCLAYS Bank, the object of a prolonged campus boycott less than a decade ago, is among three financial institutions bidding to run a privatised student loan scheme.

The bank's competitors chose to remain anonymous yesterday as the deadline for tenders passed but the Clydesdale Bank and a major building society were understood to have entered the race.

Privatisation of the Student Loans Company was delayed last December, weeks after legislation was announced. Banks and building societies ignored appeals to take over the system because of the commercial risks and the prospect of being identified with an unpopular service.

A new system was to have been introduced in September. The delay left a £100 million hole in government finances, the savings anticipated from transferring liabilities from the scheme. With the privatisation Bill receiving Royal

Assent last week, lenders have been reassessing their stance. Barclays has been in prolonged talks with the Education and Employment Department and the National Union of Students.

Barclays said its bid did not represent "a massive change of heart". The bank had been able to put forward a proposal that could be commercially viable, under which the Student Loans Company would still operate and Barclays would also offer loans on the same terms and interest rates.

That means graduates would have five years to repay loans once their income reached 85 per cent of the national average, and government subsidy would support a rate of interest pegged to the Retail Prices Index.

The NUS remains opposed to privatised loans under the scheme but said Barclays had met its call for faster processing and thorough consultation with students.

Bishops

Continued from page 1

Bishop of Stoney, and the London diocese's first black bishop. The Ven Michael Colclough, Bishop Chatter's personal assistant, will become Bishop of Kensington.

Mr Broadhurst, who replaces Bishop John Klyberg on his retirement next month, has a pastoral record considered second to none. As suffragan, he will deputise in the absence of the Bishop of London's absence.

The names of the three new bishops and one archdeacon are to be announced officially this morning.

The Ugandan-born Dr Sentamu's pentecostal-style services are renowned for gospel music and, sometimes, dancing in the aisles. He will be the first black bishop north of the Thames and only the second in the Church of England, after Bishop Wilfred Wood of Croydon.

The appointment of Mr Colclough, who will ordain women priests, to Kensington where nine out of ten clergy oppose them could spark defections from the area by clergy who may prefer the jurisdiction of Mr Broadhurst.

Catholic division, page 7

Heseltine dampens Tory BSE tit-for-tat clamour

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

RIGHT-WING Cabinet ministers are preparing to step up the pressure for tougher action to lift the European ban on British beef amid fresh signs of differences in the Government over its response.

Some ministers on the Right are proposing ways of giving British courts a stronger hand against rulings from Brussels.

However, the demands for robust tit-for-tat measures are likely to meet with opposition at Thursday's cabinet from Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister. He had faced calls for retaliatory measures from Euro-sceptic MPs but dampened their hopes by saying it was a "European issue" which had to be dealt with through negotiation "however aggravated and difficult it undoubtedly is".

Mr Heseltine said large numbers of these countries had introduced a ban of their

own and a significant number had introduced a ban long before that by the EU. "This is an international issue," he said. "The beef market in many of the European countries is actually suffering more than the beef market in this country."

Mr Major will seek support from Jacques Chirac, the French President, when he arrives in London for a three-day visit. However, if the committee of European veterinary experts fails to agree to a partial lifting of the ban tomorrow, the demand for action from Tory rightwingers will become even stronger.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, and others on the Right are believed to favour a radical plan to make European law subordinate to UK law in areas of conflict. Mr Major is said to be unconvinced of the need for such a drastic step and would almost certainly be backed by

Mr Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor.

Mr Rifkind said the "sense of frustration" over the continuing ban had now spread throughout the country and the Government. At a meeting of foreign ministers in Brussels he said that the Commission was now unanimously recommending that the ban be eased and it would be intolerable if any member states tried to oppose that view in the face of scientific evidence that all necessary precautions against mad cow disease and its transfer to humans are being taken.

Beef sales are 94 per cent of what they were this time last year, according to figures from the Meat and Livestock Commission yesterday. The figures refer to fresh and frozen beef such as steaks, joints, mince and braising and stewing steak. The recovery in sales has been less good for burgers and processed products such as meat pies.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Harman pledges to reform fundholding

Harriet Harman declared that Britain's 2,600 GP fundholders would lose the £3.6 billion they now spend on hospital care as she outlined Labour's proposals to give all family doctors greater powers. Ms Harman said that Labour intended to replace GP fundholding with a new system of commissioning. GPs would work alongside health authorities and hospital doctors to decide on hospital care for their patients.

Doctors' leaders said GP fundholding remained the "grit in the oyster" of the NHS reforms. The National Association of Fundholding Practices said that an investigation by the Audit Commission, to be published next week, would defend the principle of the scheme. The commission, which has investigated 56 practices, found that few fundholders have improved services for their patients and the scheme has been costly to run.

Chequers poll summit

John Major summoned ministers of state and under-secretaries representing all government departments to Chequers yesterday for a brainstorming session on the Government's political strategy up to the general election. Party sources said that the Prime Minister would not be discussing a manifesto. The meeting follows Kenneth Clarke's weekend warning that he could not guarantee tax cuts in the Budget.

Labour gun reforms

Guns would have log books allowing police to track changes in ownership under Labour proposals to reform the firearms laws. The books, similar to those for vehicles, would be linked to a national register of firearms. Jack Straw, Shadow Home Secretary, outlined plans to ban anyone under 18 from owning or using a firearm and allow police to refuse firearms certificates without providing reasons.

Army to fund appeal

Three British soldiers jailed for life in Cyprus for killing Louise Jensen, a Danish tour guide, are to have their appeals funded by the Army Legal Aid Scheme, the Government said last night. Allan Ford, 27, Justin Fowler, 28, and Geoffrey Parnell, 24, were found guilty on March 29 of abduction, manslaughter and conspiracy to rape. Their lawyers have claimed that the evidence was flawed and the sentences were too harsh.

Golden egg laid at last

The only two golden eagles breeding in England have hatched at least one chick after failing to produce young for three years, ornithologists said yesterday. Wardens from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, helped by volunteers, have been keeping a 24-hour watch on the birds' eyrie near Penrith in the Lake District to guard against egg thieves. There are estimated to be 425 pairs of golden eagles in Britain.

Bullet to be removed

The five-year-old girl from Sierra Leone who has survived for 16 months with a bullet in her brain will have an operation to remove it today at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Teneke Cole was taken in by a British-run charity in Freetown after her she lost her parents in the civil war and flown to Britain last week. Surgeons decided an operation to remove the bullet, which is lodged behind her right eye, was necessary because of the risk of infection.

Thames steps to reopen

An attempt to reopen historic steps along the Thames has been launched by the Port of London Authority. Many of the steps, points used by watermen to ferry people across the river, have become the stuff of London legend. The authority has identified 246 points offering access to the Thames and its foreshore from Teddington to Southend-on-Sea. Only about 44 are still in use with many of the rest closed off and crumbling into disrepair.

TV reporter dies

The ITN reporter Joan Thirkettle has died less than six months after being diagnosed as suffering from cancer. Ms Thirkettle, 48, joined ITN in 1974. She was also a presenter on Classic FM. Stewart Parvis, ITN chief executive, said: "She had a distinctive style which was respected throughout the industry." Ms Thirkettle, who died on Saturday, was divorced and had two teenage children. Obituary, page 19

Pop go Oasis tickets

All 300,000 tickets for four shows by the British band Oasis sold out within nine hours, a rate of more than ten tickets a second. Demand for the two shows at Knebworth, Hertfordshire, and Loch Lomond was so intense that promoters added another day to each gig. More than 1.5 million callers tried to order tickets within the first two minutes of them going on sale at 9am on Saturday.

Rorke's Drift VC for sale

One of 11 Victoria Crosses awarded for the legendary defence at Rorke's Drift, immortalised in the film *Zulu*, goes on sale at Dix and Webb in London next month. Experts say 21-year-old Robert Jones's medal could fetch a world record — more than the £132,000 paid in 1992 for a First World War pilot's VC collection. All but two of the Rorke's Drift VCs are in regimental collections.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY MAY 14 1996

She did not

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Simpson s

By PETER BARNES AND KATE ADKINS

A FOREIGNER famous for his footballing exploits, who came to Manchester last night had arrived a day late for the... looking for a... that was Eric Carrasco, a... from Wembley with the... Can. Last night it was... O.J. Simpson, who is from... where different... Manchester remained... to be interviewed by... Simpson flew in by private... and Madley and J... Simpson, the husband... wife, was promoted from... daytime television to... on ITV. They did their... divorced, but a man who... survived a 16-month trial... usually to offer anything... sensational in a brief... Simpson interview.

The former American foot... had running back, and... Simpson actor, acquired... October of murdering his... Simpson and her friend R...

'She did not want to move out and murder seemed the ultimate solution'

Thornton 'killed violent husband to keep the house'

By Tim Jones

SARA THORNTON was portrayed yesterday as a pathological liar and compulsive attention-seeker who murdered her violent and alcoholic husband for financial gain.

Thornton, 41, denied at Oxford Crown Court murdering her husband of ten months, Malcolm Thornton, at a retrial ordered by the Court of Appeal. Brian Cox, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury that wherever the marriage of the two heavy drinkers, both divorced, was made, it was not Heaven. The tragedy is that the two people genuinely fell deeply in love.



Malcolm Thornton was stabbed in the chest

one occasion, Mr Cox said, there was a disgraceful scene after Mr Thornton, who was a security officer with TNT, spent the whole day drinking at a company open day.

Two friends took him home and his wife came to the door where Mr Thornton hit her in the face, knocking her over. Mr Thornton, he said, was "close to the bottom of the well" and after another dreadful incident spent time in a London clinic and joined Alcoholics Anonymous.

His conversion was short-lived and by Christmas 1988 his wife suspected he had started drinking again. He lost his job when he lost his driving licence and the couple remortgaged their property to open a shop. In May Mr Thornton spent most of the day drinking at a family barbecue and punched his wife in the face. He was charged with assault.

After this, he gave up drinking and the atmosphere in the house changed completely, with the family playing board games to avoid going to the pub. Mr Cox suggested Mr Thornton had changed because he wanted his wife to drop the assault charge.

Three days before the murder, Mr Cox said, Sara Thornton attended a function in Coventry, leaving her daughter Louise, eight, with her husband because she considered he was free of his alcoholism. When she telephoned home from a hotel, she believed he had been drinking and arranged a taxi to take her daughter to a friend's house. In the hotel, it was alleged, she told a friend she would be free of her husband only if she killed him. The following day she had a furious row with her husband, during which she

threatened him with a knife and he threatened her with a guitar.

Later, as he lay in the bath, she fed him chicken laced with six Mogadon tablets, saying she wanted to make him ill so he would be admitted to hospital. But, Mr Cox said, Mr Thornton was obviously as strong as an ox because, when an ambulance called by his wife arrived, he was up and about and the ambulance left.

On the night he was killed, Mr Thornton was lying in a drunken stupor when his wife returned from the pub with Martin, her stepson. Mr Cox said that as he lay helpless on the couch she had gone into the kitchen, grabbed the knife and killed him. "There was no frenzied attack. Just one straight injury" and when Martin, who had gone to bed, came downstairs she said, "Martin, I have murdered your father."

Mr Cox said Thornton had been provocatively dressed

and had gone upstairs to change before going downstairs. He said she maintained she had taken the knife because she could not find his police truncheon.

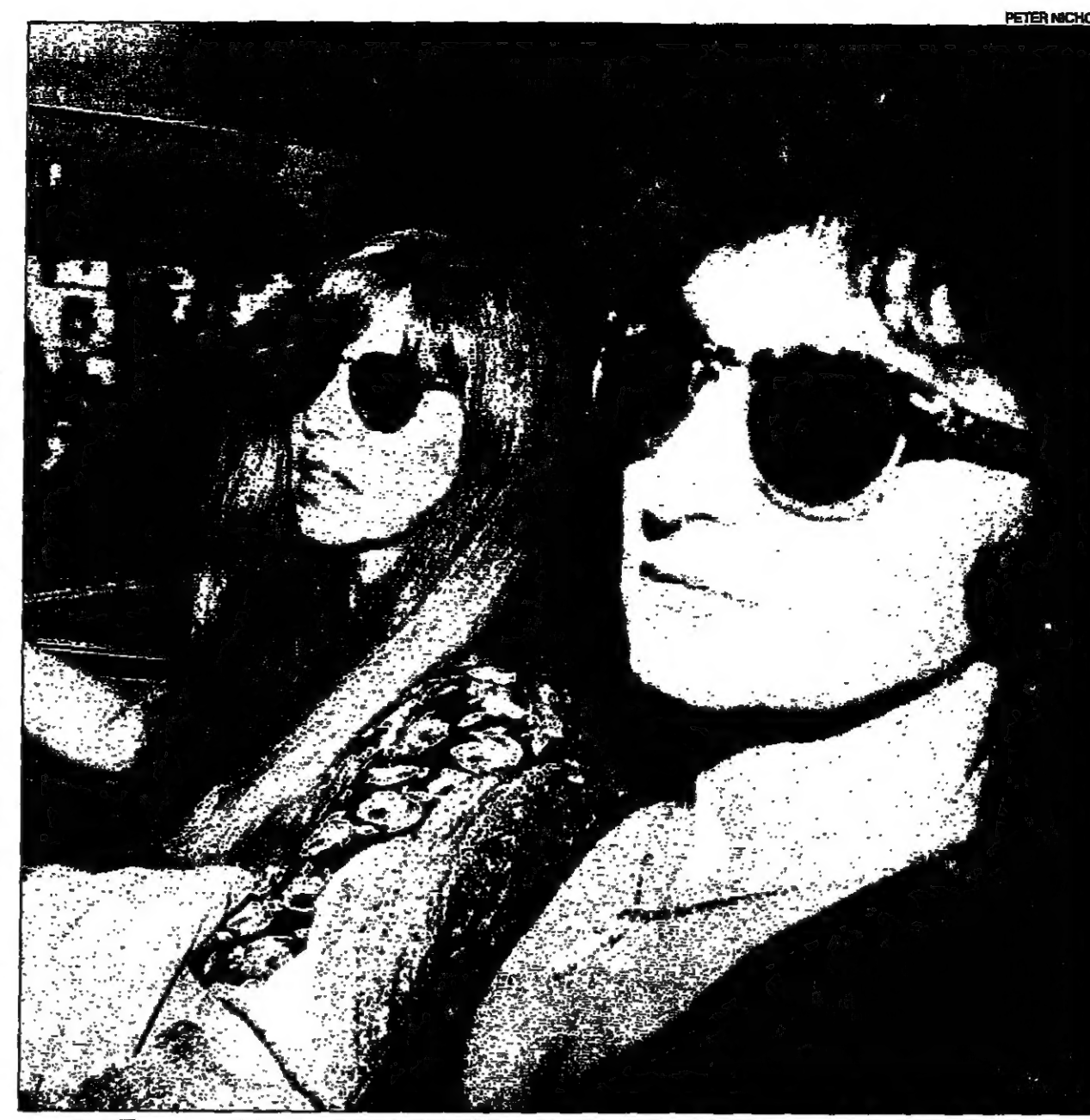
As he lay on the couch, Mr Cox said, he called his wife a whore and accused her of selling her body. Mr Cox said it was Thornton's case that "there were more insults from him and she dropped the knife, not intending to hurt him, let alone kill him. She brought it down expecting him

to brush it aside. But the knife went into him accidentally and that has always been her case. It was, she claims, simply an accident.

"The prosecution has a very different view. It was not a frenzied attack, just one single injury. And of the choice from the top of his head to the tip of his toes, where? That speaks for itself." He rejected her defence, which he said was based on provocation and diminished responsibility.

The trial continues.

Sara Thornton arriving at court yesterday with her sister Barbara Garbar. Thornton broke down in the dock



PETER NICHOLS

Stalker is jailed for terrifying neighbour

By Gillian Bowditch

A STALKER who terrified his neighbour, sending her obscene notes, bombarding her with presents, cutting her telephone line and handcuffing himself to a tree in her garden, was jailed for nine months yesterday.

Douglas Pickering, a 39-year-old car salesman from Waterside, Strathclyde, developed an obsession with Louise Durie, 42, a hairdresser, in September. Kilmarnock Sheriff Court was told. Mrs Durie said she feared for her life and at one point locked herself in her bedroom armed with a knife and a hammer.

She said Pickering had repeatedly telephoned her at work and at home and loitered outside the salon in Irvine where she worked. He had followed her to work, thrown stones at her windows and threatened to commit suicide on her doorstep.

He had bombarded her with gifts, including a teddy bear and plastic flowers, and at one point had crawled up the stairs of her shop to deliver a box of chocolates.

At one point he had banged on her door and had later been found drunk and unconscious handcuffed to a tree in her garden. Mrs Durie said she believed her life was in danger. "He started banging the door, I thought he was going to force his way in," she said. She had barricaded herself into her bedroom.

Sheriff Terence Russell jailed Pickering for breaching the peace and breaking bail conditions imposed at earlier hearings, when he had deferred sentence for good behaviour.

The sentence was backdated to April 22 and Mrs Durie said later that she was terrified that her tormentor could be free by September. She said it was a second blow after the Government's decision not to extend new anti-stalking laws to Scotland, where the offence is covered by the breach of the peace charge.

Police want to interview former fiancé in freezer baby inquiry

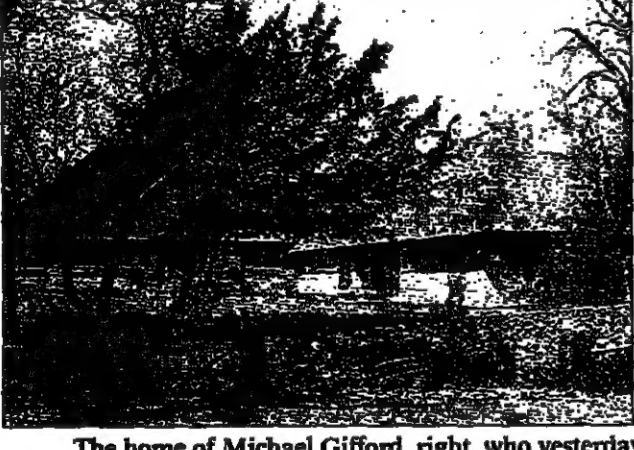
By Gillian Bowditch, Carol Midgley and Lin Jenkins

POLICE were yesterday waiting to speak to the former boyfriend of a millionaire's daughter after the body of a newborn baby was found in her freezer.

Joseph Ernst, an architecture student at Edinburgh University, was on holiday in Spain, apparently unaware of the incident or that Emma Gifford, 20, is in hospital receiving psychiatric care.

Mr Ernst, a third-year student on placement in Lisbon, moved abroad in March after the couple's relationship ended. The baby boy, which was found in a carrier bag when it was found at Miss Gifford's west London flat by her brother Kris, was born on April 5 but died two hours later through "lack of care".

Police said yesterday that they wished to speak to "every-one connected with the incident" but it is understood initial tests have suggested there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death. A post-mortem examination was inconclusive and police are awaiting the results of further tests. Miss Gifford is not fit to be interviewed.



The home of Michael Gifford, right, who yesterday refused to comment

Her father Michael, who retired last month as chief executive of the Rank Organisation, refused to comment yesterday at his home in Little Charn, Kent.

As he walked on the village green with his third wife Nancy, he said there would be no family statement. "Absolutely not. Not now, not ever." His second wife Asa, mother to Emma and Kris, who lives in a £450,000 farmhouse next door, also declined to comment, although some residents of the village said they were shocked.

Miss Gifford, who enrolled as a student at Edinburgh in 1993 but dropped out the next year, has recently been working in retailing and living in the £140,000 basement flat in Onslow Gardens, south Kensington, bought for her by her father.

She had a long-term relationship with Mr Ernst, whom she met during her studies, but was said to have "taken it in his stride" when the relationship ended amicably in March.

Students described Miss Gifford and Mr Ernst as simply "an ordinary couple in love". Miss Gifford kept her pregnancy a secret and flatmates of Mr Ernst in Edinburgh said they were shocked to hear about the tragedy. David Burnett, 20, an agricultural economics student, said: "He seemed very nice. I didn't know him well. He stayed here for a few months and he was out a lot." Miss Gifford telephoned often but visited infrequently.

Mr Gifford, 60, was chief executive of the £3 billion Rank Organisation for 12 years. His annual salary was about £400,000 and he had share options that earned him an extra £428,000 in 1994.

Simpson smiles through TV storm

By Peter Barnard and Kate Alderson

A FOREIGNER famous for his footballing exploits who came to Manchester last night had arrived a day late if he was looking for adoring crowds. That was Sunday and that was Eric Cantona, back from Wembley with the FA Cup. Last night it was O.J. Simpson, who is from a whole different ball game. Manchester remained calm.

Simpson flew in by private jet to be interviewed by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan, the husband-and-wife team promoted from daytime television to peak time on ITV. They did their damndest, but a man who has survived a year-long trial is unlikely to offer anything sensational in a brief television interview.

The former American football running back and sometime film actor, acquitted last October of murdering his former wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron



A relaxed O.J. Simpson arrives at the Granada studios yesterday for his 17-minute interview

ald Goldman, solved one mystery outside the headquarters of Granada Television: why had he agreed to come? "I was invited. I was curious. I was doing nothing," Simpson added. "I am hoping that we don't even talk about the case, but I know we will." As ever, expectation proved more reliable than hope, but there were to be no revelations. Indeed the most amazing moment occurred

after 17 minutes of the interview, when Simpson looked aghast, or possibly relieved, as Finnigan announced: "That's all we've got time for." Simpson had been paid a "nominal fee" of £1 by Granada. Madeley and Finnigan had started with all guns firing, as if to prove that former doyens of the daytime agenda could handle this grown-up stuff.

They interrupted long replies with subsidiary questions, but that only produced even longer replies. Why did so many people not believe him innocent? "I don't blame them," Simpson said. "The [media] reports were so inaccurate, so skewed to the negative."

Why, when he knew he was to be arrested, did he take the famous televised drive in the white Bronco, complete with passport and \$10,000? He wanted to visit his mother's grave. He always carries his passport. There was no \$10,000. "I was suffering despair. I just wanted the pain to stop."

It went on, a partial rerun of the trial. Simpson's blood at the murder scene? "I am very suspect as to whose blood that was." And so on.

Simpson maintained throughout the look of a man who has been this way before and expects to come this way again. The smile is an all-weather item, by now impervious to storm. Even in Manchester.

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News and soaps to be elbowed aside by sport

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Television, page 5

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Father threatens to sue after son is barred from class

By PAUL WILKINSON

A FATHER is to sue an education authority for failing to provide his son with proper schooling after a teachers' union barred his son from attending classes because of violence.

Peter Cram decided to sue when teachers at Hebburn Comprehensive, South Tyneside, refused to allow his son Graham, 12, into lessons when he returned yesterday after a ten-month suspension. Mr Cram, 39, an unemployed shipyard worker, arrived at school with his son shortly before 9am. He had a letter from education officials stating that, as a result of an appeal over his son's expulsion last July, he would be readmitted to normal lessons.

Teaching staff who are members of the National Union of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers had already said they would strike rather than teach the boy, who was excluded after allegedly kicking and punching a member of staff.

As Mr Cram took his son through the school gates they were met by Madeline Watson, the head teacher, who told them that Graham could



Watson told Graham he could not join class

not attend classes. The boy spent the day receiving tuition on his own from Mrs Watson and a supply teacher brought in specially by South Tyneside Education Authority.

Afterwards Mr Cram said: "At the moment I am prepared to accept segregated teaching on a one-to-one basis as Graham has been away since last summer. But eventually I want to see him reintegrated totally into school life. He misses being with his friends and feels left out, he is not getting the proper education

he should. What happens next is in the hands of our lawyers, we will be guided by them."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the union, which represents 80 per cent of the school's 52 teaching staff, said as far as they were concerned the boy would not be taught by members of his union. He referred to a case in Birmingham two years ago when the parents of an expelled child took court action. "A precedent has been established that a pupil can be readmitted and delegated to a single teacher and kept virtually isolated to protect the education and safety of teachers and pupils."

Mr de Gruchy flew from London to lead talks with the school's governors and the education authority. Afterwards he said officials had accepted his members' right not to teach the boy but added: "If they put pressure on we have a mandate to take action, including a strike." A fresh ballot would be completed by the end of the month to reinforce a vote for action passed last January.

He said the boy could spend the rest of his academic career at the school being taught separately. The alternative was for him to go to another school where he could start with a clean sheet or to a special school where staff were trained to deal with unruly pupils.

Graham, an apparently shy boy not much taller than 4ft, said: "I feel very upset about not being allowed back because I wanted to get on with my education. The teach-



Graham Cram with his father Peter. "I want to see him reintegrated totally into school life," Mr Cram said

Family challenges reprieve for pair in playground shooting

By A STAFF REPORTER

A FATHER whose 11-year-old son was shot in the head with an air gun "for a laugh" went to the High Court yesterday to challenge a refusal of education chiefs to expel two pupils involved in the incident.

Mr Justice Tucker was told that H, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was now too frightened to go back to the school in Camden, north London, because the boys had been allowed to return. The "emotionally vulnerable" child feared they would "get him back" for reporting the

playground shooting in which he lost consciousness for 10 seconds. Rabinder Singh, for the family, said:

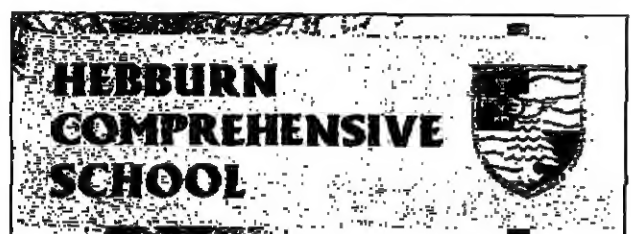
He accused the school governors and Camden council, the local education authority, of failing to carry out a proper balancing exercise when they decided that both pupils should not be permanently excluded, in spite of the effect that decision would have on H and the disruption it would cause to his education.

Mr Singh said that permanent exclusion, instead of the 12-day suspensions the boys received, was fully justified by

the facts and Education Department guidelines in which the governors themselves had recognised as an extremely serious case. He said H's father would start criminal proceedings if there were no expulsions.

Sarah Forsier, for the governors and the education authority, said that both of her clients were entitled to go against the "strong recommendation" of the head teacher that the two involved in the shooting should be expelled from the school.

Mr Justice Tucker is to give his ruling today.



Teachers at Hebburn voted in January to take action

Wrong plane brings Bader Spitfire hunters down to earth

By ALAN HAMILTON

MILITARY history enthusiasts who claimed last week that they had recovered the remains of Sir Douglas Bader's wartime Spitfire from a field in northern France admitted last night that they had the wrong plane.

Two days' work by a British team, acting on months of research, overwhelming circumstantial evidence and eye-witness recollections

from elderly local residents yielded the engine and the mangled aluminium fragments of a Spitfire. They were convinced that it was the machine from which Sir Douglas Bader baled out by parachute during a massive dogfight with the Luftwaffe in August 1941.

But they are now equally convinced that it is not. What they have unearthed appears to be a Mark 9 Spitfire, whereas Bader's machine was a Mark 5A. Undaunted by

failure, the team is already examining fresh evidence at the site of the flying ace's final crash and may soon start digging another hole in the hope of better luck.

Dilip Sarkar, chairman of the Malvern Spitfire Team and a police constable with the West Mercia force, said yesterday that excavating the wrong aircraft had been disappointing. "But we have raised the finance to try again and are examining new evidence; obviously the memories of French

peasants who led us to the wrong site have faded over 55 years."

The Spitfire's remains were extracted from 15 feet of clay beneath a sugar beet field, encrusted with mud and severely corroded. The Rolls-Royce Merlin engine block has six exhaust ports on each side, making it a Mark 9. Bader's aircraft would have had three on each side. Diggers were initially encouraged by a maker's identifica-

tion plate, which indicated that the Spitfire had been built in Southampton, an important piece of corroborative evidence. What they wanted to find was a plate showing the aircraft's serial number W3185, which would have positively identified it as Bader's, but they did not.

Ministry of Defence investigators are, meanwhile, no nearer finding the identity of a Spitfire pilot whose remains were recovered with his machine from a bog near Bruges in

Belgium three weeks ago. The aircraft was recovered by two Belgian amateur war historians, who were surprised to find the pilot's remains in the cockpit. The historians called in the British Embassy and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Investigators have been puzzled by unusual features, including a parachute with no details of its owner's identity and a cigarette lighter with the initials U L.

CORRECTIONS

□ The expenses of National Lottery retailers, including the cost and servicing of terminals, point-of-sale material and marketing, are paid by Camelot, not by retailers themselves (report, April 24).
□ The proprietary cat food Whiskas (report, May 2) continues to hold its position as overall market leader.



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WHICH?

Lawyers demand to see Lyell over 'crisis in courts'

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS in the Crown Prosecution Service are seeking an urgent meeting with the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General about what they claim is "day-to-day crisis management" in the courts.

There is widespread concern that spending cuts are preventing prosecutors from carrying out the essential task of reviewing cases before they come to court, leading to mistakes and unnecessary adjournments.

The move to involve Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, and the Solicitor-General, Sir Derek Spencer, QC, who have ultimate responsibility for the CPS, is an indication of the depth of feeling.

Criticism has come from the First Division Association, which represents most of the 2,000 lawyers in the CPS, and from barristers in private practice who undertake Crown Court cases for the service. The CPS has been ordered to cut its budget by £9 million in 1996-97, to £288 million.

Kevin Goodwin, of the First Division Association, said CPS staff wanted the law officers to hear their "grave concerns" about their inability to "carry out professional obligations and serve the interests of justice".

He said that lawyers who

The Law Society is launching a support scheme for solicitors with drink problems. The £70,000 project will offer counselling and a helpline. The society said lawyers with drink problems were more likely to have money troubles. They are also more likely to go before the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal or to be the subject of negligence claims. The Solicitors' Indemnity Fund is contributing £20,000, which it hopes to recoup through a drop in negligence claims.

left were often not replaced and the use of outside lawyers had been cut. Only 10 per cent of cases of CPS work are now undertaken by lawyers in private practice.

The result is that CPS lawyers who remain have to be in court almost continuously, and cannot fulfil their statutory and core function of reviewing cases to see which should proceed, Mr Goodwin said. "We have expressed all our concerns to management. Morale and motivation have never been lower."

Mr Goodwin is also seeking meetings with the Bar and Law Society and is balloting members for their views on a national day of protest.

Similar concern was expressed by a lawyer who until

recently held one of the most senior posts in the service. He said mistakes were being made and hearings were being unnecessarily adjourned because lawyers had inadequate time for preparation. "Staff feel they don't have time to review the cases, which is their fundamental task."

The CPS is overcentralised, with a needlessly large central bureaucracy and very tight control from the centre, which leaves the local branches with little power.

David Jeremy, a barrister who chiefly prosecutes Crown Court cases for the CPS in London, said: "We now have a position where the CPS is sometimes not even in court — one CPS lawyer is trying to cover, say, three courts and running from one to another."

Judges are invariably criticising the CPS in court because things have gone wrong. The trouble is, at present, they are in the business of concealing what is going on... they take decisions on the need to cover their inadequacies rather than making the right decision in any particular case."

A CPS spokesman denied that lawyers had no time for case reviews. "The system of team-working means work is spread among several people, it is not all down to one person."

Law, pages 37, 39
Law Report, page 41



Karen Matheson, right, the lead singer of Capercaille, who will be performing a Breton song for France

France embraces the Celtic fringe and chooses a Scot for its Eurovision entry

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

FRANCE has departed from its usual cultural chauvinism by choosing a Scottish woman for its entry in the Eurovision Song Contest this year.

Indeed, nationalism will be at a premium for this year's competition, to be held in Oslo on Saturday. Britain's Eurovision entry, *Ooh Aah Just a Little Bit*, is to be sung by the Australian starlet Gina G. Austria's song, *Cause You Feel Good*, is a gospel number, and Iceland's entry, *Shoobadoo*, is based on American music of the Forties and Fifties.

The song that Argyll-born Karen Matheson will be singing is not even in French but in Breton, a language that shares Celtic roots with Welsh and Cornish. What is more, Ms Matheson, who is currently touring England with her band Capercaille, will be accompanied by the Welsh singer Elaine Morgan, an Irish piper and a Scottish keyboard player, all under the direction of an Irish conductor.

Ms Matheson said she was surprised to be approached by the French two months ago to represent them in the contest, now in its forty-first year, but she was immensely pleased to be able to put forward a Celtic song. "It is a

hugely political statement for a minority culture."

Considering France's traditional cultural protectiveness, embodied recently in a government decree requiring that a minimum of 40 per cent of the music on radio should be French, the decision to choose Ms Matheson seems rather bizarre.

The French authorities have only recently agreed to give funding to Breton-language schools and for decades practically ignored Breton culture altogether. Ms Matheson's song, *Diwanit Bugale*, which translates as *May the Children Be Born*, was written by the guitarist Dan Ar Bras 20 years ago in

praise of minority cultures. A spokeswoman for the French public service broadcaster France 2 said that Ms Matheson had been chosen to show that France was becoming more European.

"It was to demonstrate our belief in the true melting pot of European culture. The fact that the song is sung in Breton is part of the same idea," she said.

The French Ministry of Culture was quick to distance itself, however. "I thought the French entrant was French, from Brittany. Anyway, it is nothing to do with us," a spokeswoman said.

Leading article, page 17

Passive smoking 'does not cause cancer'

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

PASSIVE smoking does not cause lung cancer, an international team of scientists has concluded. The team, led by a British specialist, Professor Jeffrey Idle, says that the evidence is insufficient to show that working or living next to a smoker increases the dangers of lung cancer.

The conclusion contradicts that reached by the US Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 and is bound to be controversial because the money for the study came from three tobacco companies.

Yesterday Professor Idle, until recently at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and now at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, said that the sponsorship did not affect the conclusions.

"I was prepared to do this only if there was no interference from sponsors," he said. "We agreed that we would publish the results whatever they showed."

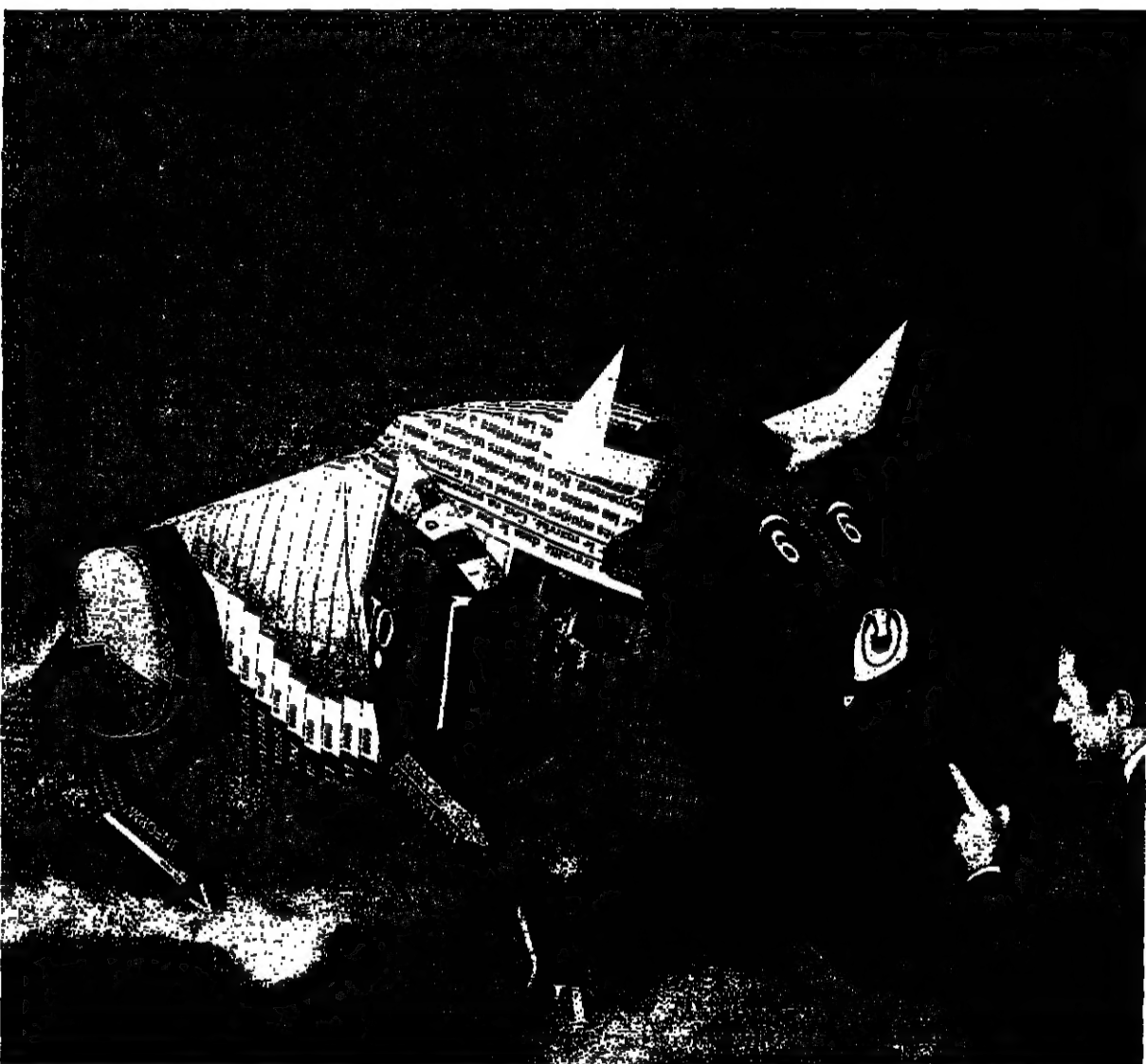
The team examined a range of studies by other scientists, some of which have shown a link between environmental tobacco smoke — the smoke that drifts around a room when smokers are present — and some of which do not.

Added together, they say, and corrected for well-known sources of bias, these studies show no statistically significant increased risk of lung cancer from passive smoking. These results are different from earlier studies, says the group's statistician, Dr Anthony Springhall, because all sources of bias were taken into account. Results can easily be confounded by factors such as diet — smokers and their spouses tend to eat less healthily than non-smokers — and by misleading information.

The group did not examine other possible effects of second-hand smoke, including allergies and heart disease. "These are undoubtedly important, but to examine them you would need a different panel," Professor Idle said.

The anti-smoking group Ash said that it was suspicious of the findings, given that the group was "not independent". A spokeswoman said: "There have been a number of independent international committees that have concluded that passive smoking is a public health hazard and have specifically linked it to lung cancer."

A committee under Sir Peter Froggatt, of Queen's University, Belfast, examined the issue in 1988, and concluded that several hundred people a year in Britain were dying of lung cancer from passive smoking, she added.



Polaris bows out with resolution

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Navy's Polaris submarines bade farewell yesterday after 229 patrols in 28 years of service.

The last patrol of the four-boat Resolution-class fleet was by HMS Repulse. She will now be decommissioned and tied up alongside the other three, which have already been taken out of service.

The end of an era for the Polaris "black bomber" submarines was officially announced by Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the First Sea Lord, who went on board Repulse after she entered the Clyde on her way to the naval base at Faslane, having finished her patrol in the Atlantic.

Repulse could have remained in service for longer, sharing the nuclear deterrent patrols with the two new Tritons now in service. However, navy sources said she would have needed an expensive refit and it was decided that two Tritons could maintain the round-the-clock patrols over the next two years. The two Vanguard-class Trident submarines, Vanguard and Victorious, have completed four patrols between them.

The penultimate Polaris taken out of service, HMS Renown, was decommissioned earlier than planned because of technical defects. There were reports that she developed cracks in pipes leading to the nuclear reactor.

The navy's confidence that Polaris boats have never been detected is based on a rigorous assessment by Ministry of Defence experts after each patrol during which they examine the records of the boats' tracks under the Atlantic to see if any other submarines have moved in their direction.

The full four-boat Trident force will not be in service until the turn of the century. The next boat, HMS Vigilant, is undergoing sea trials and is due in service in 1998.

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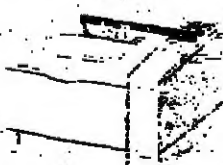
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Catholic Church divided over likely candidates to succeed Worlock in 'hot seat' northern diocese

Rome urged to name new Archbishop of Liverpool

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of the Roman Catholic Church in Britain have called on the Vatican to announce a successor to the late Archbishop of Liverpool quickly to end the speculation they believe is causing damaging rifts within the Church.

A process that would normally take six to eight months has been dragged on for more than a year and led to a clash between modernists and traditionalists. Conservatives have written to Rome complaining about the allegedly liberal views of some of those thought to be likely candidates.

Church leaders are also desperate for a successor to Derek Worlock to restore leadership to England's second most important diocese. They want to dampen speculation that one priest rejected the job because Liverpool is too much of a hot seat.

Mr Kieran Conry, director of the Catholic Media Office, who has been named by some as a possible contender, said: "The suspicion is growing that someone turned it down. Archbishop Worlock is diffi-

cult to follow. Liverpool is considered such an enormous responsibility. Liverpool and Westminster are the hot seats of the Church.

"There might also have been questions about the theological ability or orthodoxy of one of the names. Increasingly, people are writing directly to Rome complaining about aspects of the Church."

The conservatives found a voice in the author Alice Thomas Ellis, who wrote a vehement criticism of Archbishop Worlock in her last column in the *Catholic Herald*. She said: "The last thing in the world faithful Liverpool Catholics want is another progressive in that position."

While the conspiracy theorists have been having a field day, the cause of the delay could simply be bureaucratic. Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, has hinted that he "would not mind" stepping down: by law he must offer his retirement to the Pope when he is 75 in two years. This means that the Pope, in appointing a suc-



Patrick Kelly, 57, Bishop of Salford since 1984. Attended English College, Rome. Well-known theologian, and conservatives' favourite. Former rector of Oscott college seminary in Birmingham. Born Lancashire and at home in the North. In Salford has introduced radical programme of confirmation, postponing it to teens rather than late primary school age so girls and boys are better equipped to make a decision about faith. Bubbly personality, approachable, down to earth, with lively mind and character. Accessible to media. Wits have suggested he does not want to become an archbishop because he does not want to be known as "His Grace Kelly".



David Konstant, 65, Bishop of Leeds since 1985. Previously an Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster. Studied mathematics for four years at Christ's College, Cambridge. Became priest in diocese of Westminster 1954. Taught maths and religion at Cardinal Vaughan School, Kensington. Worked on the drafting committee for the new catechism of the Catholic Church. Prepossessing figure; can sometimes appear a little distant but has sharp mind. Excellent pianist. Chairman of Catholic Education Service, helped to launch the Catholic Church on the Internet in February. Made a Freeman of City of London in 1984. Prolific author on religious education and liturgy.



Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, 63, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton since 1977. Born in England, despite Irish lilt. Trained at English College, Rome, and served as rector there. Was secretary to Derek Worlock while he was Bishop of Portsmouth in 1960s. Chairman of Committee for Christian Unity since 1983, which makes him a strong contender in ecumenical light. Considered affable and charming. Respected and liked throughout the Church, known for pastoral expertise. As the co-chairman of Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, has helped to write many treatises exploring areas of similarity and difference between the two churches.



Crispian Hollis, 59, Bishop of Portsmouth since 1988. National Service in Somerset Light Infantry. Read modern history at Balliol College, Oxford. Trained for priesthood at English College, Rome. Ordained July 1965. Catholic chaplain at Oxford University from 1967. In 1977 became Catholic assistant to the head of religious broadcasting at the BBC. Ordained bishop in 1987. Closely connected with religious broadcasting throughout ministry. Confident and relaxed manner; tolerant, urbane and welcoming. His recent letter to all Catholics in the Channel Islands urging them to oppose attempts to legalise abortion was an indication of his theological "soundness".



Vincent Nichols, 50, an Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster since 1992. Liverpool-born, part of "Crosby mafia", prominent group of priests born and educated in that area. Trained at English College, Rome, and in Chicago. People's favourite and a protégé of Archbishop Worlock, whom he worked with closely. Former parish priest in Tooting. Former general secretary of Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Regular contributor to *Thought for the Day*. Represented bishops at the last synod in Rome on the religious life. Fluent in Italian. If not appointed to Liverpool, everyone will assume it is because he is being reserved to replace Cardinal Basil Hume at Westminster.

cessor to Liverpool, must bear in mind the man he wants at Westminster.

Christina Odono, former editor of the *Catholic Herald*, said: "There is one man who is head and shoulders above the rest, and that is Bishop Vincent Nichols of North London. But to put him at the helm of Liverpool would close the door to him as Cardinal Hume's successor. They do not want to

have a musical chairs church."

If Bishop Nichols were to go to Liverpool, the Pope could resolve that difficulty by asking Cardinal Hume to stay on into the next millennium.

The names of three candidates for Liverpool were presented to the Congregation for Bishops in Rome in November by the Pope's representative in London, Archbishop Luigi

Barbarito. The congregation is thought to have taken note of written protests to Rome about the direction the Catholic Church, and specifically the Liverpool diocese, has taken in recent years.

More information is understood to have been demanded on at least one of the three candidates, and a second round of consultations took place earlier in the spring. A

decision is expected soon.

Mr Conry said: "When the Nuncio sends his final report with three names to Rome, they all have to be good candidates. If one is an also ran, Rome will just send it back. It is possible that they regarded one of the candidates as less strong, and wanted either another candidate or more information."

Other insiders believe that

the Pope, who was a close friend of Archbishop Worlock, was distressed by his death through cancer earlier this year and has deliberately waited to announce his successor to allow a period of mourning.

Mr Conry dismissed speculation that Rome is trying to impose a candidate "to bring the English bishops back into line", as has happened in

countries such as Switzerland and Holland.

He said: "I see no reason to do that. I don't think there is any suggestion here that the Church has stepped out of line. Cardinal Hume has a strong reputation in Rome. He was appointed the facilitator of the last synod. He wouldn't have been if there was concern about the state of Church in this country."

Oiled seabirds die 10 days after rescuers free them

By NICK NUTTALL

CLEANING oiled seabirds is a waste of time and money. Most die within ten days of being released into the wild, a survey has found.

The study into the survival rate of seabirds after tanker disasters shows that the life expectancy of a cleaned gull-mot is only a matter of days.

The results, published in the journal *Ibis*, are likely to add to controversy over whether the cleaning of seabirds in the wake of the *Sea Empress* disaster off southwest Wales was misguided or a publicity stunt by charities.

The findings are based on 2,000 seabirds, ringed after rescue and cleaning from pollution accidents in America.

Brian Sharp, an ornithologist from Oregon who did the survey, has found that the life expectancy of a released gull-mot is under ten days — compared with 18 months for an unaffected bird — and that



An oiled scoter duck is brought in for cleaning

only between 10 and 20 per cent survive the trauma.

The survey, based on government wildlife files, says survival rates have not improved with modern cleaning methods. "The cost and effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts for oiled seabirds need to be examined in the light of the results, which show low post-release survival."

A spokesman for the RSPB said yesterday: "We have always suspected that survival

rates were quite low and this first in-depth study confirms it. We don't get directly involved in the cleaning process and our emphasis is on trying to stop oil pollution happening in the first place."

Chris Mead, of the British Trust for Ornithology, said: "These results confirm that the suffering of these birds is, in the vast majority of cases, to no avail. I can understand the desperate feelings of the rescuers that they should do something to help the birds but, realistically, it may be better for the birds to put them to sleep immediately."

But the RSPCA defended its oiled bird policy and rejected the American figures. John Rolls, a spokesman, said: "Most birds rescued by the RSPCA are ringed before release and we have examples of oiled birds surviving for up to ten years in the wild. Some birds have been returned to the RSPCA having been oiled for a second or third time."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man denies murdering French girl

The lorry driver accused of murdering Celine Figard was committed for trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court. Stuart Morgan, 36, of Poole, Dorset, is accused of killing the 19-year-old French student between 18 December and 30 December last year. Mr Morgan, who denied the charge, was committed for trial on October 2.

£2.2m for boy

Christopher Ingleby, 8, who is severely affected by cerebral palsy after mistakes at his birth at Whittington Hospital, north London, is to receive £2.2 million medical negligence damages under a High Court settlement.

Path stays put

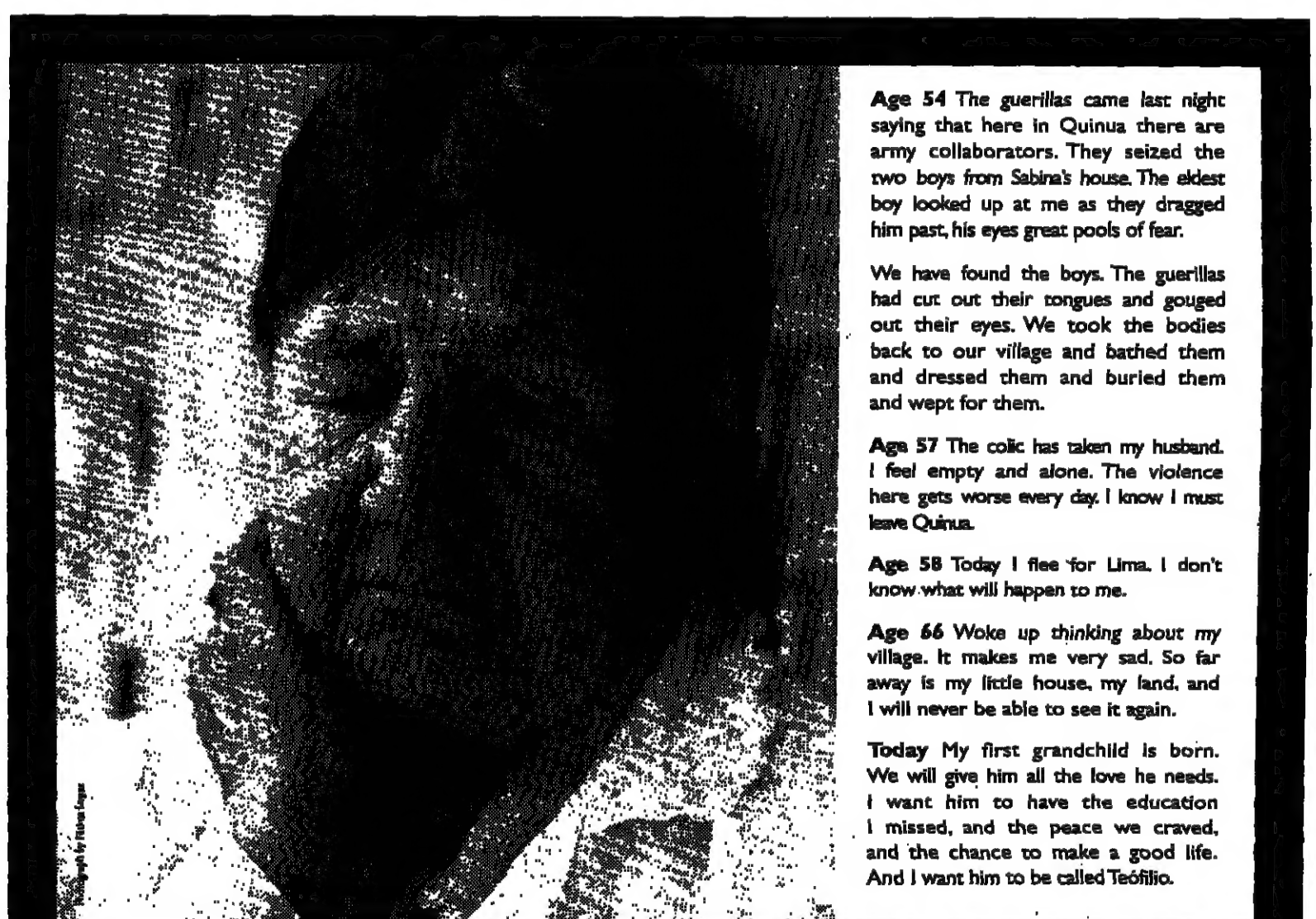
Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber has lost an attempt to divert a public footpath which runs through the courtyard of his country home. The path, shown on maps from 1759, takes walkers within 30 yards of the composer's home.

Ferry alert

Ferries went on alert after wreckage was seen between Dover and Calais. Coastguards said the *D'Artagnan*, which sank in April, may have floated up because of gases from fish rotting in her hold.

RAF pair safe

A student pilot and an instructor escaped with minor injuries after ejecting before their RAF training aircraft crashed yesterday morning near the village of Wetwang



Age 54 The guerillas came last night saying that here in Quinua there are army collaborators. They seized the two boys from Sabina's house. The eldest boy looked up at me as they dragged him past, his eyes great pools of fear.

We have found the boys. The guerillas had cut out their tongues and gouged out their eyes. We took the bodies back to our village and bathed them and dressed them and buried them and wept for them.

Age 57 The colic has taken my husband. I feel empty and alone. The violence here gets worse every day. I know I must leave Quinua.

Age 58 Today I flee for Lima. I don't know what will happen to me.

Age 66 Woke up thinking about my village. It makes me very sad. So far away is my little house, my land, and I will never be able to see it again.

Today My first grandchild is born. We will give him all the love he needs. I want him to have the education I missed, and the peace we craved, and the chance to make a good life. And I want him to be called Teófilo.

DIARY OF A SURVIVOR

Age 7 The crops have all dried up. Why won't it rain? Mama and papa are leaving the farm to work in the salt mines. I am hungry.

Age 14 I asked mama again why I cannot go to school and her answer is the same. "School is for boys". So my brothers go while I have to take the cattle to pasture. But if I don't learn anything, this is what I will always do, tend cows. I want to do more in my life than this.

Age 22 A terrible day. I am to marry Claudio Enriquez, a trader from our village. I flew into a rage at my father for permitting him my hand in marriage but he just looked down at the dust and said that for a poor girl with no education this is a good match and I must try to be a good wife.

Age 24 My beautiful boy is born. Teófilo. I am in pain but happy.

Age 30 I thought Teófilo was getting better because he had a quiet night. But his stillness struck a terror in me the moment I awoke and I rushed to where he lay on the floor. His lips had

turned black. I lifted his limp, clammy body to me and caressed him, his hand, his forehead, his stomach. But little by little he lost his breathing. I have seen death in my family so many times but today I felt my own soul die with his. I don't want to go on.

Age 42 Such a beautiful dawn this morning. We worked the plot, me on the potatoes, silently, the children with their laughter on the avas. It is hard work from dawn to dusk, but for the first time in four years the harvest will be good, so at least we can eat. We are content enough.

This diary is based on interviews with Agustina Gutiérrez Ramos, a displaced villager from Quinua, Peru. Her story of survival against the odds is typical of so many throughout the Third World.

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24 CARAT SMOOTHNESS

Carpet tycoon puts hard-up Tories on a sound footing

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A CARPET tycoon who was knighted and given a peerage by the Tories is being hailed as the man who has saved the party from financial ruin.

The key figure behind the reduction in the party's overdraft from £18 million to £2.5 million is Lord Harris of Peckham, one of the party's treasurers.

Lord Harris, founder of the Harris Queensway carpet empire, helped to broker the deal last December to pay off a £600,000 debt to Saatchi & Saatchi, which had been outstanding since the 1992 general election.

The failure to pay the bill was a severe embarrassment to the Tory party, which was so hard up after the election it took out a second mortgage on its Smith Square headquarters. But Lord Harris, 53, struck a deal with the company and raised the money to settle the debt.

He is a substantial donor to the Tory party and was made a life peer by John Major last November. But it is his virtual

elimination of the party's deficit that has enabled a long-awaited fightback by Mr Major.

Today Tory leaders will launch the first in a series of nationwide poster and newspaper advertising campaigns saying that although government policies since 1992 have hurt them, they have worked. The campaign, which was outlined by Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, at the Chequers summit yesterday, will feature 1,000 poster sites across the country.

The campaigns have been devised by Maurice Saatchi and Sir Tim Bell, the advertising gurus who masterminded Margaret Thatcher's first two general election triumphs. They created the memorable "Labour isn't working" slogan and are known at Conservative Central Office as the dream team.

The Tories ended their 16-year relationship with Saatchi & Saatchi when Maurice and his brother, Charles, acrimoniously left the com-

pany. The brothers set up another firm, M & C Saatchi, and secured the Tory account, which remains one of the most prestigious in the advertising world.

The poster and newspaper advertisements, part of an £11 million pre-election campaign, will continue until polling day. Tory officials say that a similar amount will be spent on the final three weeks of campaigning.

Most of the money has been guaranteed, rather than deposited in the bank, but it is known that Lord Harris has secured pledges which would enable the party at least to match the more than £20 million it spent in 1992. Central Office declined to discuss the finances but officials confirmed that Lord Harris had played a central role in restoring them.

Last night one senior Tory said: "Philip Harris is a financial genius. He is the only reason the overdraft has virtually gone and the main reason pledges have poured in."



Lord Harris, a "financial genius" who has transformed the Tory party's finances

"Enough money has come in to enable us to have a flurry of spending on advertising now. We will be back on the offensive in the summer. If the money has been pledged to Philip there is no doubt it will be coming our way. He could ensure that we could fight a general election now if we had to."

The success of Tony Blair in creating new Labour has helped Lord Harris and his

fellow treasurers, such as Lord Hambro, to restore the flow of funds from the business community to Conservative Central Office. The Tory official said: "The closer Tony Blair looks like getting to the of Downing Street gates the easier it is becoming to prise money from our old supporters. Labour still frightens the business community."

Harris Queensway was one of the retail success stories of

the 1980s until its profits crashed after the 1987 stock market collapse. But within months Lord Harris, then Sir Philip Harris, confounded the market when he bounced back with the launch of Carpet-right. The company was an immediate success and was floated on the stock exchange in 1993.

Lord Harris was on holiday yesterday and unavailable for comment.

Clarke and his shadow are in similar corners

Kenneth Clarke and Gordon Brown have more in common than either would admit publicly. Not only do they broadly agree on macro-economic strategy, if not on labour market and welfare measures, but they are in a similar political predicament. Both are under challenge within their parties. The attacks are linked to personal criticisms — in Mr Clarke's case over his strongly pro-European views and, in Mr Brown's, over his allegedly high-handed style of making policy. But at the root of the arguments lies an unwillingness of many of their critics to face up to disagreeable financial realities.

All Mr Clarke was doing at the weekend was to highlight statistics, notably a rise in public borrowing over expected levels, which has been worrying financial markets for some weeks. This is largely a result of a shortfall in tax receipts which is still puzzling Treasury officials and can only be partly explained by a slowdown in the rate of growth. Mr Clarke was merely pointing to the obvious when he said tax cuts must depend on the state of the economy, spending commitments to hospitals, schools and the police, and on moving towards a balanced budget.

The protests by the Tory Right miss the point. The demand yesterday by Terry Dicks that Mr Clarke should be sacked because he is "out of touch with the party with regard to tax cuts" is ill-informed nonsense. Tax cuts cannot be conjured up out of nowhere. Mr Dicks suggests that John Redwood should be appointed with a mandate to cut spending and taxes. He seems unaware that Mr Redwood, in his All Souls rather than his populist mood, was last week distinctly cautious about the scope for tax cuts because of the fiscal deterioration.

Mr Clarke's warnings are not the result of some pro-European plot, mistakes by him or lack of will, as Bill Cash implies. There is no way taxes can be cut on a large scale this autumn without being financially irresponsible. It is arguable that the Treasury should be looking

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

for ways to broaden the tax base by bringing more items within VAT, though that is hardly likely before an election. Reducing public borrowing is anyway a mainstream Tory aim, whether or not the Maastricht conditions existed, as Norman Lamont has accepted. There is obviously a longer-term debate over the size of the public sector which would put Mr Clarke on one side and Michael Portillo and Michael Forsyth on the other. But, in the short term, that is the next financial year, there is little scope to cut spending plans more than a couple of billion pounds at most, and that will probably require creative accountancy. The existing squeeze on spending is already very tight and, as Peter Lilley has shown, savings on social security take time to come through.

Mr Brown's problem as Shadow Chancellor is a mir-

Leading article..... page 16

ror image of Mr Clarke's. He has to persuade his colleagues that Labour has to come up with real cuts in some programmes if it is to offer a credible fiscal approach. Good intentions, as in Chris Smith's welfare speech last week, are not enough. After the fuss over child benefits for 16 to 18-year-olds — which Mr Brown handled clumsily — tomorrow's statement on training and employment for young people will be a key test of "new" Labour's seriousness in substance, as opposed to rhetoric.

In both cases, the position of the Chancellor or Shadow Chancellor has to be upheld. Just as no government can prosper if a Chancellor is criticised from within, or relations are strained with a Prime Minister, so no opposition can appear as a credible alternative government if the authority of the Shadow Chancellor is undermined. They are the pillars of any administration.

PETER RIDDELL

Major urged to make Redwood Chancellor

A TORY MP called on the Prime Minister to replace Kenneth Clarke with John Redwood to improve the party's chances of survival at the general election (Jill Sherman writes).

The demand from Terry Dicks (Hayes and Harlington) reflects growing anger among rightwingers over Mr Clarke's

recent warnings that he cannot guarantee vote-catching tax cuts in his November Budget. Mr Dicks said: "I am calling on John Major to sack Kenneth Clarke as Chancellor. He is out of touch with the party and he is out of touch with everybody with regard to tax cuts. He seems to have his own agenda and as far as I am concerned he is too arrogant by far. On top of all this he makes silly mistakes."

Mr Clarke has given a series of interviews in which he has suggested that elections are not won on tax cuts. But Mr Dicks said that the only chance the Tories had was to make Mr Redwood Chancellor with a mandate to cut public spending and taxes.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to the Deputy Prime Minister; debates on the Northern Ireland economy and on the Government's cattle disposal scheme. In the Lords: Education (Scotland) Bill, report; European Bill, committee.

TODAY in the Commons: questions to health ministers and the Prime Minister; debate on Westminster City Council; regulations on grants for nursery education; debate on teaching of reading in London. In the Lords: Home-Correspondent Rating (Information) Bill, third reading; Security Service Bill, second reading.



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Hollywood rushes to make Hardy's novels less obscure

FROM DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT, AT THE CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

AFTER Jane Austen, it is now Thomas Hardy's turn. Directors and producers are rereading his classics in a rush to make them into movies as money-spinning as Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*. *Jude*, a faithful adaptation of *Jude the Obscure*, which is receiving its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, is one of five Hardy movies in various stages of production. Michael Winterbottom, the young British director who directed *Jude*, and Andrew Eaton, who produced it, are collaborating again on *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, while Phil Agland is making *The Woodlanders*, with funding from Channel 4 Films and Chargeurs, a French conglomerate. Negotiations are under way for *Wessex Tales* and *The Return of the Native*. Although *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and *Far From the Madding Crowd* have already received the Hollywood touch, Claudia Shaffer, who runs the rights department of Curtis Brown, the literary agents, said she had been inundated over the past few months with applications for rights to Hardy's novels from film, theatre and dance companies. "They are selling like hot cakes. I am getting phone calls every day." There had, however, been curious ideas for adaptations, she said, including a suggestion to feature bouncing sheep in *Far from the Madding Crowd* — *The Musical*. Changes in copyright laws in January, extending copyright to 70 years after a writer's death, have made the industry see Hardy in a new light. Hardy and John Buchan are among authors whose novels have been affected. As Hardy died in 1928 his work will return into the public domain at the beginning of 1999. Peter Weinand, a partner of Farrer and Co. which acts for the Hardy estate, said that a work under copyright became a more marketable commodity, in that others could not make films of the same work. He suggested that after the formal, classical tone of Jane Austen, film-makers were yearning for a more romantic mould. Mr Weinand said that one of their partners was a trustee of the estate, a complex arrangement which involved 16 wills. He said that through a series of bequests, the rights were passed on via Hardy's widow to her sister and on to a housemaid. An anonymous



Christina Tonitto of Sotheby's with the Swarbrick Nun. The doll, which spent most of its 350 years in a box, is expected to fetch £60,000

Persecution puts a high price on the model nun who turned out to be a hidden treasure

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND JOHN VINCENT

FEW lifeless wooden dolls can have seen so much life as the one expected to fetch £60,000 when it is auctioned at Sotheby's next week.

The 14in doll, dressed in the stiff cotton wimple and black woollen habit of a Jesuit order of nuns she has worn since 1680, is a potent reminder of Catholic persecution in late 17th-century England. Rarely has combined with history to inflate her worth: only 22 other similar examples are known in the world.

Hidden in a wooden box from the prying eyes of religious zealots, the doll — which is known as the Swarbrick Nun — was smuggled out of England and back again, and has since been in the care of the same Lancashire family for nearly 300 years. Sotheby's experts have found

that the doll was given to a small girl from the Swarbrick family, devout Roman Catholics of Swarbrick Hall, Singleton, Lancashire, in the mid-17th century, during or soon after the rule of Cromwell's equally devout Protestant Commonwealth.

Because of strong anti-Catholic feeling, the girl — whose Christian name is unknown — and her brother James were smuggled out of the country to be educated at a Catholic seminary at Douai in northern France, and later in Rome. The girl took the doll with her.

James Swarbrick became a Jesuit priest and his sister became a nun. She dressed the doll like herself and when her brother returned to England in 1680 she concealed the toy in a wooden box for him to smuggle home, so that their mother could see how her daughter was dressed. The doll was successfully returned to

Swarbrick Hall. Taking the doll with him, James Swarbrick later stayed with another of his sisters, Alice, and her husband Richard Gillow at their home near Lancaster, where misfortune befell him. In 1717, two years after the Old Pretender's unsuccessful rising to regain the British throne for the Catholic Stuarts, the Gillows' house was searched and Swarbrick was thrown into Lancaster Castle on suspicion of being a Popish priest.

Swarbrick died in prison on the eve of his execution, at the age of 77, and became known as one of the Lancashire Martyrs. Gillow was also arrested, dragged before the justices at Preston and convicted of being a recusant — failing to be a regular attender at the Church of England. He died soon afterwards. But the doll survived and remained in the Gillow family until recently. Bunny Campione, Sotheby's doll specialist,

said yesterday that the toy, which became something of a religious icon, was the work of an unidentified but highly skilled English craftsman of the mid-17th century. Twenty-two other examples of his work were known to be in private hands or museums.

"All 23 have the same look and are undoubtedly by the same hand. It is extremely unlikely that one will come on the market again. This one has a wonderfully exciting history. But for all her adventures she has a tender, saintly, knowing look, as if she is about to give Benediction."

"There is a real atmosphere about her when you pick her up. You feel that she has seen a great deal of life but remains pure and innocent. What makes her so interesting is that she is still wearing the Jesuit habit after all this time." The doll will be auctioned on May 22.



Thomas Hardy, whose rising star now outshines Jane Austen in the Hollywood firmament

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Bonn is shaken by euro rebellion among Kohl allies

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BATTLELINES have been drawn over European monetary union in the Free Democratic Party, a key partner in the ruling coalition of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor. The row looks set to rattle the Bonn Government as it plods unsteadily towards meeting the Maastricht entry criteria for a single currency.

The argument among the Free Democrats could hardly have come at a worse time: European Commission figures, due to be released tomorrow, are likely to show that Bonn will miss at least one of its EMU targets in the critical year of 1997. The Commission forecast suggests — as German sources confirmed yesterday — that both Germany and

France will not be able to bring their deficit down to 3 per cent of total output. The forecast is providing ammunition to the Euro-sceptic wing of the Free Democrats, which is demanding that the Government negotiate further treaties to ensure the lasting stability of the future European currency. The group, Liberal Offensive, is insisting on steps towards a political union before Germany embarks on monetary union. The group is lobbying to get next month's party congress to approve the principle of a party referendum on EMU.

This idea has triggered panic in the Free Democrat leadership. Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister and one of three key Free Democrat ministers in the Cabinet, said: "There can be no renationalisation of European policy."

The Social Democrats, he said, had tried to play the Euro-sceptic card in regional elections in Baden-Württemberg in March and had lost votes. For the small Free Democratic Party, on the cusp of the 5 per cent needed for parliamentary representation, any serious loss of vote would spell oblivion.

Among the party's right wing, there has long been some degree of Euro-scepticism. In part, they are reluctant to see a strong mark surrendered for a weak euro. But there is also a powerful faction committed to German national sovereignty.

The dissidents are campaigning for a delay in the introduction of EMU. If the party backs them in an internal referendum, the protest could spread to other coalition partners — the Christian Democrats and the Bavarian Christian Social Union.

While German big business seems to be moving towards a 1999 start-up for EMU, conservative politicians in all parties are urging a delay rather than a flexible interpretation of entry criteria.

It is the dissidents who can bring Germany to its knees. They, along with 3.2 million other public sector workers, want a wage rise of 4.5 per cent but would give ground in return for job guarantees. The Government is offering no wage increase and is seeking cuts in holiday entitlement.

Dieter Schulte, head of the German trade union federation, last night issued a warning of a "hot summer" of industrial protest with strikes in the offing by airport workers and banks as well as train and tram drivers.



Kinkel: face set against demands of dissidents

Paris and Madrid in informal EU pact

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

IN AN informal pact that could isolate Britain still further in Europe, Spain has promised France "maximum co-ordination" and support in all future European Union negotiations.

According to Spanish diplomatic sources, the agreement was concluded last Thursday by Abel Matutes, the Spanish Foreign Minister, and Hervé de Charette, his French counterpart, in private talks held during a meeting of the Mediterranean Forum in Ravello, near Naples.

The agreement was sought by M de Charette, and was made to ensure the strengthening of the Franco-German axis within the EU. In the aftermath of the Italian elections, which returned that country's first left-wing Government, France appears to have turned to the conservative Spanish administration of José María Aznar for a reliable European ally.

M de Charette, said to be perturbed by the "slackening" of the Maastricht process and by "the poor results" at the Turin Inter-Government Conference in March, sought and received guarantees of Spanish co-operation in future EU negotiations, particularly in regard to the reform of the Maastricht treaty and the admission of new member states.

In exchange the agreement gives Spain the promise of greater French involvement in the cross-border fight against Basque terrorism and "a strengthening still further of bilateral ties".

Madrid has for long complained that France's co-operation in the fight against ETA has been less than wholehearted.

Although details of the agreement have not been made public, it is likely that the French have accepted in principle — the long-standing Spanish request that its police be given the right of hot pursuit into France of suspected Basque terrorists.



Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist presidential candidate, is surrounded by bodyguards after a campaign rally in Nizhny Novgorod at the weekend

Heat goes out of Russia spy row

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

WHAT had promised to be a serious spy row between Moscow and London appeared to be fizzling out yesterday as a week after the Russian intelligence services threatened a mass expulsion of British Embassy diplomats.

A Russian Foreign Ministry official said on Sunday that "the subject is closed", leading Tass to comment that the issue would probably be resolved through diplomatic channels.

The British Embassy would say only that "there are no new developments. Discussion continues." There were no top-level meetings between the two sides yesterday and there appeared to be no imminent threat of expulsions.

The playing down of the affair probably owes as much to a dispute within the Russian Government as to talks with the British side, which threatened tit-for-tat expulsions of Russian diplomats from London. Russian counter-intelligence made much of the accusations at first. But the more pro-Western Foreign Ministry refused to confirm the spy story and put the brakes on.

A source in the Foreign Ministry told the Interfax news agency yesterday that the alleged British spy was a middle-ranking Russian diplomat. "He is a fairly young man and had bright prospects," the source said.

German unions step up strikes

BY ROGER BOYES

GERMANY'S dustmen were yesterday preparing to join other workers in lightning nationwide strikes after fruitless talks between the Government and the public sector unions.

Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, and his Cabinet are urging calm on the increasingly angry unions, fearful that workers will take to the streets against spending cuts as they did in France last autumn.

There can be no more powerful threat to civic calm in Germany than a dustmen's strike. Only yesterday the German recycling agency was bragging that Germany has become "world champion" in the rubbish disposal league. Each German recycled 65.5 kg (144 lb) of rubbish last year — that is 77 per cent of all household packaging.

So far the public service

protests are at the level of "warning strikes" — usually lasting only one or two shifts and switching from city to city. German postal workers in Munich, Stuttgart, Berlin and other cities were refusing to deliver mail yesterday. Bus and tram drivers are coming out in other towns.

It is the dustmen who can bring Germany to its knees. They, along with 3.2 million other public sector workers, want a wage rise of 4.5 per cent but would give ground in return for job guarantees. The Government is offering no wage increase and is seeking cuts in holiday entitlement.

Dieter Schulte, head of the German trade union federation, last night issued a warning of a "hot summer" of industrial protest with strikes in the offing by airport workers and banks as well as train and tram drivers.

Pope's attacker asks Vatican to intercede

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

MEHMET ALI AGCA, the Turkish gunman who tried to kill the Pope, yesterday marked the fifteenth anniversary of the assassination attempt by appealing to his victim to set him free.

However, the Vatican said John Paul II had already pardoned Agca twice and had even visited him in prison, and had no intention of intervening.

The Pope, who was shot in the stomach and hand, has recently suffered mysterious

intestinal ailments apparently linked to the murder attempt and subsequent emergency surgery. His injured hand still trembles uncontrollably.

In an often-ranting television interview from his prison cell in Ancona, Agca, who is now 38, gave a vivid account of events at St Peter's Square on May 13, 1981. He said he had almost given up his assassination attempt when the Pope made a second circuit of the square during his weekly audience.

"When the Pope went round the first time I thought it was all over. I thought to

myself, I may as well go back to Switzerland and start a new life," Agca said. "But then he was in front of me, and an invisible supernatural force urged me on." He opened fire in "a desperate attempt to make history".

Agca said he was asking the Vatican to persuade Italy to release him. "I am not asking for clemency, I am asking for justice," he said. "I have served my sentence and paid for my mistakes, which I acknowledge," he said. "I am not a danger to society. I can be of use to the world."

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Patrick Smith of Norwich Union Direct - leading the new generation of direct insurers

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Norwich Union Direct's claims service was music to Philippa's ears

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IN BRIEF

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11 MAY 1996

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IN BRIEF

Chirac rekindles Entente Cordiale

French President pursues his love affair with Britain



Jacques Chirac, the republican with a penchant for royalty, arrives in Britain in a conciliatory mood, writes Ben Macintyre from Paris

RELAXING in his study at the Elysée Palace in Paris on Sunday night, Jacques Chirac recalled the moment when, as an awestruck boy of 16, he stood in a crowd welcoming King George VI and the young royal princesses as they toured the shipyards at Newcastle upon Tyne.

Today, nearly half a century later, the man who is now President of France will encounter the same royal sisters from a rather different perspective when he is greeted at Waterloo station by Princess Margaret. He will then be driven in a carriage procession along the Mall after royal salutes are fired from the Tower of London and Green Park for a private lunch with the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

Before his three-day state visit to Britain, M Chirac granted a rare audience in his office during which he reflected on the increasingly warm ties between Britain and France as well as his fond memories of postwar Britain. The President expressed sympathy for the plight of British cattle farmers and said France would back any relaxation of the beef ban approved at a European level.

The Franco-British alliance is as vital to France as its relationship with Germany, M Chirac said, adding that recently he had urged Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, to show European solidarity with Britain over the beef crisis.

For a republican, M Chirac has a strong admiration for royalty and, as a Frenchman, an equally unlikely affinity for all things British.

In an exchange arranged by his parents, the young Chirac travelled to Britain for a month every year between the

ages of 16 and 20 to stay with the family of John King, a boy of the same age who lived in Rochester in Kent. It was Mr King's father, an executive in the shipbuilding industry, who arranged for the French youth to witness the royal visit to the shipyards at Newcastle upon Tyne.

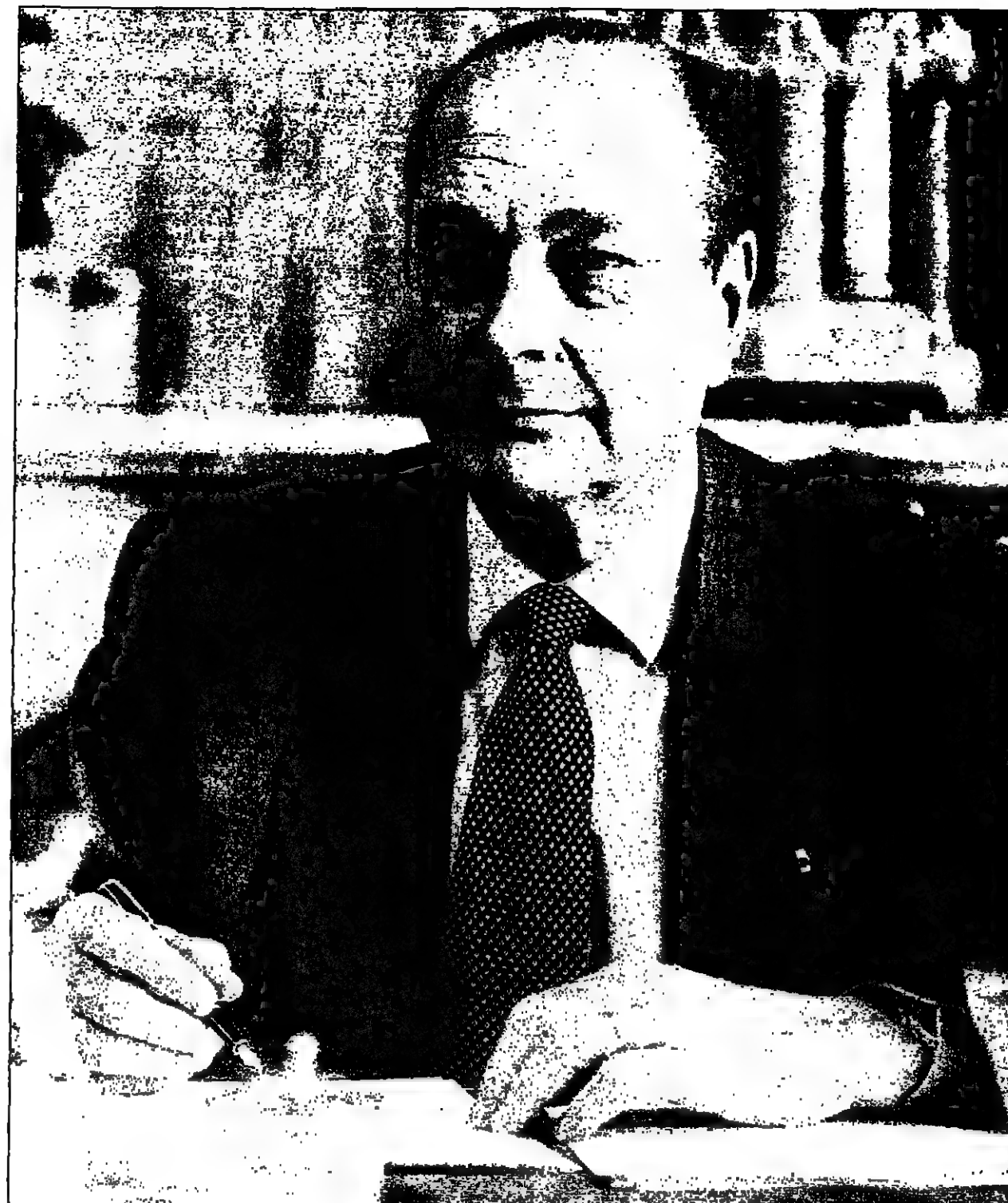
M Chirac travelled widely during his British holidays, staying in YMCA hostels at Edinburgh and at Windermere, experiences that left him with a firm grounding in English, an appreciation of the British countryside and, he said, an enduring taste for fish and chips eaten out of newspapers.

Where his predecessors have tended to view "perfidious Albion" with at least residual suspicion, M Chirac is openly Anglophile, and Sunday's informal discussion left no doubt that he intends

Chirac did not rule out a *ménage à trois* at the heart of Europe

his presidency to mark a fresh blossoming of the Entente Cordiale. Relations between France and Britain, particularly in the area of defence co-operation, have reached a new level of solidarity, the President said. He applauded what he called the efficiency of the British armed forces and had especially warm praise for what he called the intelligence and strong leadership of John Major, the Prime Minister, with whom he has a close personal understanding.

However, he added that the crucial importance of the Franco-British link was enough to ensure a good working relationship with whatever party was in power. When it was pointed out that he would soon be sitting down to eat British roast beef with the Queen, a meat still banned in France, he laughed, then said the prospect was one



President Chirac in his office at the Elysée as he prepares for his state visit to Britain that starts today

he relished. The French decision to ban British beef was not made unilaterally, he said, adding that Paris would support a European decision to lift the ban on beef tallow, gelatine and semen being discussed by the European Union veterinary committee tomorrow.

Pointing to his own roots in a rural region of France largely dependent on cattle farming, M Chirac said he understood the distress of farmers on both sides of the Channel. At the same time he

maintained that the swift European ban on beef had prevented still greater panic among consumers.

In the same vein he sought to play down the differences between France and Britain over Europe, saying repeatedly that a united Europe without Britain would be unthinkable. Britain's reservations on Europe must be taken into account, he said, adding that he believes that Britain will join a single European currency with Germany and France.

The Franco-German relationship remains central to French thinking, but M Chirac was at pains to suggest that that hallowed marriage does not preclude what might be called a "ménage à trois" at the heart of Europe, with France balanced between Germany and Britain.

Almost a million British soldiers perished on French soil in two world wars, M Chirac said, noting that military co-operation in Bosnia, the decision to create a professional French army on the British model, similar thinking on the reform of Nato and the new Franco-British Air Group have all contributed to a new era of understanding. The President had particularly glowing praise for what he termed the great "elegance" shown by Britain in not condemning the French resumption of nuclear testing, contrasting the civilised attitude of London with the response of other European allies.

The President also expressed admiration for the tightly controlled and well regulated British economy and said he would be discussing issues such as deregulation and more flexible working methods with business leaders in the City during his stay.

The contradictions in M Chirac's thinking that have dogged his first year in office, notably his expressed desire for ever closer European unity at the same time as a "Europe of nations", have not yet disappeared.

But this week, when he tours the depressed Glasgow neighbourhood of Easterhouse, addresses Parliament and lays a wreath at the Charles de Gaulle memorial, Britain may discover a French leader more attuned to British culture (and humour) and perhaps better equipped to deal with the complex cross-Channel currents than any President since the founding of the Fifth Republic.

Old animosities change, he said, laughing off the periodic "Frog-bashing" in parts of the British media and recalling that his parents' generation once routinely referred to Germans as the "Boches".

When asked whether, as a tabloid newspaper once reported, he had ever remarked during a summit that Margaret Thatcher "wanted his balls on a plate", the President emitted another guffaw, emphatically denying saying any such thing, and then grinned, as if he rather wished he had.

Serious differences remain, but no man knows better how symbolism can help to heal the most ancient scars. Today M Chirac will alight from a scheduled Eurostar train in a station named after one of France's most devastating military defeats at British hands, before eating a meal containing food banned by his own Government.

He might well have preferred fish and chips, but M Chirac will be much too tactful to say so.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 16
Focus, pages 20-23

Elysée's new tenant opts for grandeur

By Ben Macintyre

THE contrasting personal styles of the late President Mitterrand and his Gaullist successor are reflected in the interior of the Elysée Palace.

M Chirac has ejected the modern furniture that was commissioned by Mitterrand, returning the interior to the elegant look of de Gaulle's era.

Where Mitterrand favoured angular modern constructions by such celebrated designers as Philippe Starck, M Chirac has brought back the grandeur look of an earlier age with Louis XV chairs and

intricately patterned upholstery. Almost every piece of furniture in the Elysée now boasts a carved, gilded animal and clawed feet, and the only obvious concession to modernity is a large television in the corner of the President's office.

Perhaps the most telling tribute to his political mentor is M Chirac's decision to do away with the table created for Mitterrand by French designer Pierre Paulin in favour of the massive leather-topped Louis XV-style desk used by de Gaulle.

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Helicopter saves Everest survivor at 20,000 ft

Veteran climber tells wife 'don't worry' before dying

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND RONALD FAUX

ROB HALL, the leading mountaineer, bade a poignant farewell to his pregnant wife by radio before dying of frostbite near the summit of Mount Everest, it was disclosed last night.

The news came as Seaborne Weathers, the American climber initially believed to have died in the blizzard, descended to a 20,000 ft pass, where a helicopter picked him up — the highest such rescue on record. "I am OK, I'm better now," said Mr Weathers, 49, from Dallas, after he was flown to Kathmandu by a Nepalese army helicopter chartered by the US Embassy.

Mr Weathers, who was part of a Swedish expedition, suffered facial burns from high winds and severe frostbite on both hands. The storm struck as Mr Weathers was only 400 ft from the summit, forcing him to squat on a rocky ledge without oxygen or anything to drink.

Mr Hall, a New Zealander, was one of eight feared dead by the harsh conditions on the famed 29,028 ft mountain as the climbing season takes off in treacherous weather. With mountaineering "tourists" paying more than £40,000 a head following the relaxation of numerical limits by the Nepalese Government, experienced climbers believe too many are being allowed on the

mountain at any one time. Mr Hall, 35, the only Westerner to have climbed Everest five times, and his countryman, Andrew Harris, 31, who also perished, were leading an expedition of paying clients organised by Adventure Consultants.

The two other victims from the New Zealand expedition were a Japanese woman, Yasuko Namba, 47, viewed as her country's finest female mountaineer, and an American, Douglas Hansen, 44. The New Zealand Press Association said eight climbers in all, from three separate expeditions, were believed killed as bad weather set in on their descent from the mountain. Amid confusion about the death toll, reports in New Zealand said the other victims included three Indian climbers — an expedition is being launched to search for their bodies — and a climber with a Taiwanese group.

Hailing the rescue of Mr Weathers, Geoff Gabites, chief executive of the Adventure Tourism Council, said in Christchurch that it was the highest helicopter rescue on record. The missing climbers were presumed to be above 28,000 ft "and it's just not possible to have a helicopter operating at that area", he said. At that altitude the atmosphere is too thin for

helicopter rotors to function. Nepal has no rescue procedures for climbers in danger, and requires each expedition to take responsibility for its own safety.

Mr Hall was last heard from on Saturday night when a radio operator connected him to his pregnant wife, Jan Arnold, in New Zealand. His assistant, Madeleine David, said in Christchurch that, according to his last message, he was trapped above 25,000 ft, frostbitten with no tent or sleeping bag and almost no oxygen, fluids or food.

Ms David said the Everest veteran told his wife, seven months pregnant, with whom he scaled the mountain in 1993, he was hopeful. "He said: 'Hey, look, don't worry about me.' The man knew that there was an expedition, a rescue launched for him," said Ms David. "Various other people in the expedition teams who had two-way radio were encouraging him, talking to him, and it seemed like he was in reasonably good spirits."

Friends were convinced he would have made it down the mountain but stayed behind to help the sick Hansen.

But Colin Monteath, a family friend, said: "The assumption has now been made that he did not survive a second night on Everest."

Peter Hillary, son of the Everest conqueror, Sir Edmund Hillary, said Hall would have known he was likely to die when he was forced to camp without a tent or sleeping bag just below the summit.

He said Mr Hall would have realised that things were "very grim" when he had to spend the night exposed to a blizzard with the ailing Hansen.

"A bivouac without equipment 150 meters below the summit in bad weather means at the very least you're going to get frostbite, and it could go right through to death," Mr Hillary said. "He knew that."

Six other clients, one guide and two sherpas from the New Zealand party made their way to a camp lower down the mountain.

Steve Bell, managing director of Himalayan Kingdoms



Seaborne Weathers, the American survivor, lands in Kathmandu yesterday after his rescue by helicopter

Expeditions, the Sheffield-based company that offers guided attempts on Everest, described the deaths as a disaster waiting to happen.

"So many teams are now trying to reach the summit and relying on a hope that the weather will remain fair," he said. "Someone was bound to be caught out one day."

Mr Hall was "tremendously experienced, the top man on the planet" for guiding in the Himalayas, Mr Bell said. "I have immense respect for him, but on a mountain as high as Everest it doesn't matter that you have been climbing one year or 20 years, those storms are vile and if you are caught in one it will kill you."

Himalayan Kingdoms has one expedition on the Chinese face of Everest with three guides and seven clients attempting the summit, among them the actor, Brian Blessed. About 20 companies around

the world organise climbing expeditions to the Himalayas, although climbers must accept that if it becomes clear they do not have the skill or stamina to make the attempt they may be turned back without a refund.

Andy MacNae, national officer of the British Mountaineering Council, said pressure caused by the number of teams attempting Everest was a danger. "There are just too many people climbing, particularly when you have a mountain that is a honey-pot like Everest. Although it is technically a straightforward climb, when the weather suddenly turns bad it becomes a very different proposition, a serious fight for survival."

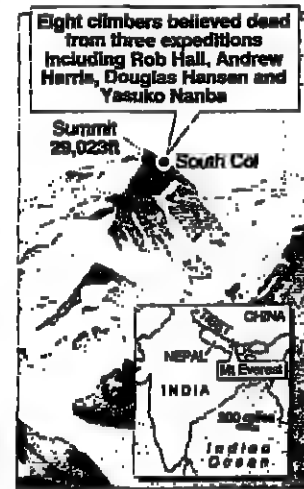
The mountain has claimed more than 100 people since it was conquered in 1953. Thirty mountaineers were on Everest when the latest storm struck on Friday, bringing temperatures of 40 below zero F and

whipping winds. Twenty-two climbers were treated on the mountain for frostbite and other injuries and were continuing their descent, according to Jeff Herr, of *Outside Online*, a magazine published on the internet that has monitored one of the trapped expeditions.

Among the teams now on Everest is an American-led expedition making an IMAX giant screen film of an ascent via the South Col.

A solitary Swede, Goran Kropp, 29, cycled from Stockholm to the Everest base camp. He climbed without oxygen or sherpa assistance and, avoiding fixed ropes, reached just beneath the south summit before turning back because of the dangerous snow conditions.

Jamling Tenzing, son of Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, who was first to climb Everest in 1953 with Hillary, hopes to



Eight climbers believed dead from three expeditions including Rob Hall, Andrew Harris, Douglas Hansen and Yasuko Namba

reach the top ten years after his father's death. The Nepal Mountaineering Association has organised an expedition to shift 1,500 kg of garbage from the mountain, which now has a permanent lavatory at base camp.

WORLD SUMMARY

Refugees guarded at Ghana quayside

Takoradi: Thousands of sick and dying Liberian war refugees stranded on a freighter for the past week left the ship under military guard in this Ghanaian port yesterday and were being kept in guarded quayside tents.

Port officials said the Nigerian cargo ship *Bulk Challenger* returned to dock after a generator failure forced her to stop as she tried to leave the port. They estimated it could take three days for repairs. Ghana said the ship would have to take her passengers back to Monrovia.

A second vessel, packed with 700 refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone fleeing renewed clashes in Monrovia, moved closer to Freetown harbour in Sierra Leone yesterday, although local officials said that she had no authority to dock. (Reuters)

Israeli shot dead in West Bank

Jerusalem: Palestinian gunmen shot dead one Jew and wounded another in a drive-by shooting in the occupied West Bank (Christopher Walker writes). The gunmen, who earlier fired at an armoured-plated bus carrying Jewish settlers, struck as Israeli security forces were on maximum alert for threatened Arab attacks to coincide with elections on May 29. Twenty-four hours earlier Hezbollah wounded five Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon.

Leader dies

Lagos: Nnamdi Azikiwe, first President of Nigeria, has died at 91. He was President from 1963 to 1966; Nigeria became a republic in 1963, three years after independence. (AFP)

Obituary, page 19

'Black box' hunt

New York: Hopes grew that the "black box" of the ValuJet DC9, that crashed in the Florida Everglades with the loss of 109 lives, could be retrieved as workers found the jet's tail in the swamp.

Balcony deaths

Nairobi: At least 14 people were killed and five injured when the balcony of a dilapidated building which houses a supermarket collapsed in the Kenyan capital, police and witnesses said. (Reuters)

Serb in custody

The Hague: Goran Lajic, a Bosnian Serb charged with war crimes by the international criminal tribunal here, was handed over to United Nations authorities by Germany, the court said. (AFP)

Barry returns

Washington: Marion Barry, Mayor of Washington, has returned to work, ending the leave which sparked rumours he had relapsed into the drug abuse that drove him from office six years ago. (AFP)

£1.5m sweetener

Cairo: Egypt is to pay more than £1.5 million compensation to farmers whose sugar cane fields were cut down by police to flush out Muslim militants hiding in them, press reports said. (AFP)

Gore dogs Clinton tracks in White House trial run

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON is not the only man in the White House battling for the Oval Office. Al Gore, the Vice-President, is using Mr Clinton's re-election campaign to lay the strongest possible foundations for his own presidential bid in 2000.

Mr Gore has secured key jobs for his own men. He has focused on initiatives that should come to fruition over the next four years. He is wooing the union movement that presently incline towards Richard Gephardt, the more liberal House minority leader who is likely to be Mr Gore's main rival for the next Democratic nomination.

A Gephardt adviser suggested Mr Gore's strategy was to create for himself an "aura of inevitability" that would virtually preclude challenges.

Mr Gore, a former Tennessee senator, sought the Democratic nomination in 1988 but

stood aside in 1992 because his son was recovering from a near-fatal road accident. He is now scarcely bothering to conceal his presidential ambition, telling *The New York Times*: "I'm not actively discouraging the idea, but neither am I obsessed with it." To a friend who began a sentence: "If you run..." Mr Gore insisted: "Oh, I'm running."

Mr Gore can count on Mr Clinton's support if he is re-elected. In public he has been a loyal and self-effacing deputy, even during the darkest days of late 1994 when most Democrats despaired of Mr Clinton. In private Mr Gore has been an influential adviser.

Mr Gore has used his clout to stock the Clinton campaign and Administration with allies who will form the nucleus of his own team in 2000. They include Peter Knight, Mr Clinton's campaign manager.

In the policy field Mr Gore has lavished attention on issues likely to be centre-stage by the century's end — the environment, creating a nationwide "information super-highway", and modernising government.

Finally, he has been careerising around the country, raising money for fellow Democrats and so putting them in his debt.

Mr Gore has weaknesses as a candidate. Droll in private, his stiffness in public has spawned countless jokes. His delivery is wooden, and he could not possibly be described as inspirational.

But if Mr Clinton wins in November, Mr Gore will automatically become the Democratic frontrunner for 2000. That is what he has planned. An aide recalled: "I remember going through [with him] the number of Vice-Presidents who became President. There were 14."

Sports stars coached on patent law

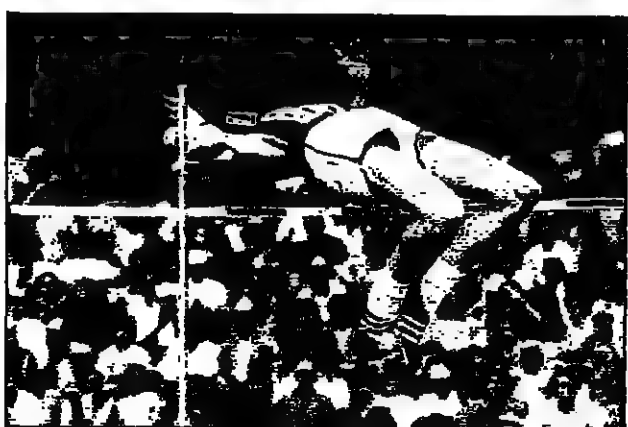
FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

DICK FOSBURY, the high jumper who invented the "Fosbury flop", would be a millionaire today under a proposal from a US lawyer that sportsmen patent their best-known moves.

Robert Kunststadt, a senior Manhattan lawyer, urged athletes taking part in next month's Atlanta Olympics to legally protect their sporting innovations. It is a proposal that could bring chaos to the playing field, but earn fortunes for sports stars.

Mr Kunststadt, who will publish his proposal next week in the *National Law Journal*, said yesterday that he has already received inquiries from leading sportsmen and women who are curious about how to capitalise on their innovations. Sports such as gymnastics, baseball and basketball are rich in opportunities, he said, and protection could be sought under existing laws.

A basketball player, such as



Dick Fosbury performing the jump that bears his name

Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls, who has a distinctive way of approaching the hoop, would stand to benefit, as would Kareem Abdul Jabbar, formerly of the Los Angeles Lakers, who invented the "sky hook" scoring shot. Bob Cousy, formerly of the Boston Celtics, could have made a great deal of money from his much-copied behind-the-back basketball pass.

"At least three forms of intellectual property, protection might be used to secure rights in sports moves — copyright, patent and trademark," Mr Kunststadt said. "Sports stars are not properly protecting their interests at present."

Gymnasts could easily cite the widespread use of copyright law in protecting dance and choreography steps, he said. Protection could also be

demanded by, for instance, the skier who comes up with a particular stance or the wrestler who invents an effective hold.

"Sportsmen deserve more security, and coaches and trainers are often unrewarded," he said. It would be up to umpires and referees to stop a player using an unlicensed move.

Dick Fosbury himself replied that he was not interested in making money out of sport. For other sports innovations of the past, such as Mark Spitz, with his double-jointed butterfly swimming stroke, it is probably already too late to capitalise.

For patent law to apply, real inventiveness had to be proved, said Mr Kunststadt, but trademark and copyright laws might be used to safeguard characteristic moves.

Mr Kunststadt, who has in the past represented the US Olympic Committee, added that patent protection could relieve the pressure for state funding of sports as it would generate large sums.

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ANC favourites fill Cabinet as critics turn on Mandela

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA, facing scathing criticism of his personal leadership and Government's performance, yesterday attempted to consolidate the African National Congress's grip on power by rewarding favourite ministers with portfolios abandoned by the National Party.

He has come under mounting pressure to personally restore faith in the battered South African economy. "It is a small but significant way of contributing to the programme of self-tightening," he said.

Mr Mandela's Cabinet reshuffle came a day after the fiercest, most personal attack on his leadership had appeared in the South African media since the ANC leader took power two years ago. Ken Owen, the distinguished former editor of Johannesburg's *Sunday Times*, said in a signed article headlined "Too much patting of children's heads" that it was high time Mr Mandela stopped celebrating and got on with the job at hand.

"How he does it is his own business," Mr Owen wrote in a leading article. "But I do suggest it is time he took matters seriously."

The article raised the spectre of devastating "stop-go"

economics unless Mr Mandela moved swiftly to stamp his authority on the Government and reassure investors.

Mr Owen continued: "He [Mr Mandela] has done far too much travelling abroad. He has made far too many conciliatory gestures. He has basked far too long in the adulation of the masses, and he has patted far too many children's heads. It is time he devoted himself to his job, which is to govern."

Until recently it seemed South Africans had been almost afraid to criticise Mr Mandela, such is the awe in which he is held. The country's media has generally treated the President with kid gloves and fear of criticism has stifled constructive debate.

Increasingly, however, the mood appears to be shifting as concern grows among South Africans about the devaluation of the rand, waning investor confidence and financial insecurity.

Mr Mandela's recent dismissive comments as the value of the rand was plummeting, suggesting that everything would come right without offering any tangible solutions, infuriated key figures in the white-dominated business community. A Johannesburg talk show was

deluged yesterday with calls from disgruntled whites commenting on the President's performance. While praising Mr Mandela's efforts at reconciliation, the callers were generally critical of his performance as a politician.

"Mr Mandela is being held to ransom by the trade unions," screamed a white Johannesburg housewife. Several suggested he was out of touch with the day-to-day workings of government and demanded firmer leadership.

In last night's announcement Mr Mandela said the General Services portfolio is to be scrapped and the Agriculture and Land ministries merged. The new minister is to be Derek Hanekom, a former ANC spokesman on agriculture.

Four new ministers were appointed to fill posts left vacant following the withdrawal of the National Party from the Government of National Unity last week. Mohammed Valli Moosa takes over from Roelf Meyer as Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development Minister. The other new ministers are Pallo Jordan, Penuell Maduna and Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi.

Speaking to Commonwealth MPs here, she said: "There will come a stage when the gap, whether in economic or political institutions, between China and Hong Kong will close and close very rapidly... By 100 years after 1997, maybe it will be one country, one system — and Hong Kong's system at that."

Ms Chan — who is not boycotted by Chinese officials, like Chris Patten, the Governor — normally talks of Hong Kong and China "settling aside their differences". But yesterday she made plain to her Commonwealth guests that, unlike her histories, Hong Kong was not moving towards independence: next year it would come under the rule of a second "metropolitan power" with different values.

South African emigration increased by 22 per cent in January of this year, compared with the same month last year, according to Alida Casteleijn, a researcher with the Central Statistical Service. The most popular destinations in January were Australia, with 463 emigrants, and Britain, with 224. South African emigrants to New Zealand numbered 223, significantly lower than previous years.

The United States was the fourth most popular destination, with 130 emigrants in January. About one-sixth of those leaving South Africa are classified as professionals or semi-professionals, among them many doctors. (AFP)



Firefighters tackling a big blaze yesterday at the general post office in Bombay, a Raj-era landmark of the city

China 'will follow Hong Kong road'

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

ANSON CHAN, the Chief Secretary and Deputy Governor of Hong Kong, predicted yesterday that China would eventually adopt Hong Kong's democratic political system.

Speaking to Commonwealth MPs here, she said: "There will come a stage when the gap, whether in economic or political institutions, between China and Hong Kong will close and close very rapidly... By 100 years after 1997, maybe it will be one country, one system — and Hong Kong's system at that."

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With slightly more than 400 days to go before July 1, 1997, when Britain hands over sovereignty of the colony to China, she gave a warning that the people of Hong Kong would have to "unite to defend the autonomy and freedoms which have been promised to us and make them work".

Echoing Mr Patten's frequent comment that China's allies in the colony fail to inform Peking of the realities behind Hong Kong's success, the Chief Secretary urged those "who have dealings with China to be more prepared to stand up to defend and to explain our autonomy."

□ Peking: China expelled two British tourists who entered and took photographs in southwestern Sichuan, an area off-limits to foreigners. The two, identified as Mark Allen and Steven Vincent, were put on a plane on May 5, a local newspaper said. The British Embassy is to investigate. (AFP)

Charity pleads with Peking to free club's dancing tiger

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

A BRITISH charity yesterday pleaded with the Peking authorities to allow a "dancing" tiger caged for the benefit of revellers at a Shenzhen nightclub to be released from its life of misery.

"We've run out of adjectives to describe what is happening to this poor animal," Jill Robinson, Asia representative for the International Fund for Animal Welfare, said. "There is a genuine chance we can bring this to a halt."

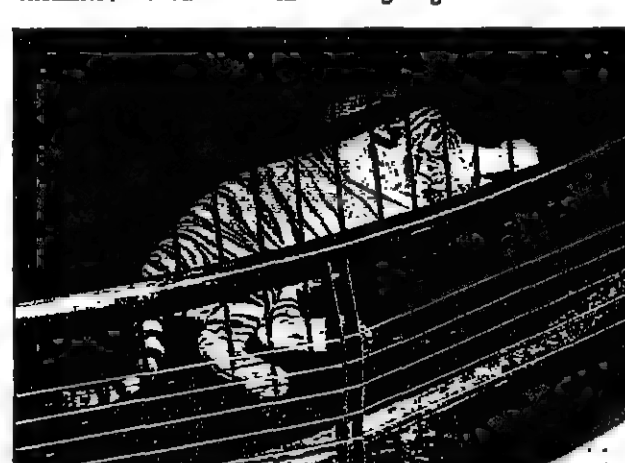
The plight of one-year-old Dengdeng, highlighted on the front page of yesterday's *South China Morning Post*, has sparked widespread indignation among animal rights campaigners.

According to witness reports, the caged tiger is prodded by keepers to make it move to the music and customers are invited to dance while separated from it by bars. Although it is the latest incident in a catalogue of cruelty to animals perpetrated

in China, activists claim they are enjoying some success in persuading Peking to crack down on individual cases which could attract international attention.

Action to save Dengdeng could be slow, however: Shenzhen, in an economic

zone bordering Hong Kong's New Territories, is a two-day journey from Peking, and yesterday there was little sign of repentance at the club, DJ Disco. "It is not dangerous," Liu Yong, marketing manager, said. "We have pulled out Dengdeng's claws."



Dengdeng the tiger, whose treatment at a club in China has outraged animal rights campaigners



Michael Caine as F.W. de Klerk and Sidney Poitier as Nelson Mandela filming in Cape Town yesterday

Armed faction reconciled with Kabul

Kabul: The first of a force of 12,000 Afghan troops of the opposition Hezb-i-Islami group began arriving here yesterday after the faction rejoined the Kabul Government, officials said here.

The alliance, announced yesterday by the Defence Ministry and confirmed by Hezb-i-Islami officials now based in Kabul, is one of the most significant here in years and could transform Afghanistan's political landscape. About 1,000 troops loyal to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of Hezb-i-Islami and former Prime Minister, are already billeted in barracks in Kabul's eastern and southwestern suburbs and more are expected.

"The deal between our two parties has now basically been finalised and we have begun implementing the terms of the accord agreed between us," said General

Abdul Majid Niazi, the Hezb-i-Islami commander here.

Hezb-i-Islami will be given the posts of Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Minister of Finance in the newly broadened administration, officials said.

The deal came after months of tense negotiations between the two sides and amid persistent rumours of a complete breakdown in talks. (AFP)

Abdul Majid Niazi, the Hezb-i-Islami commander here.

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Grace Bradberry investigates the belief that what you eat affects your way of life

Vitamins, allergies and good food for thought

When *The Road to Wellville*, starring Anthony Hopkins, was released last year, the Kellogg cereal company was not impressed. John Harvey Kellogg, co-creator of the cornflake, was portrayed in the film as a quack — a man with a mission to give America an enema and rid its diet of meat.

But at the heart of Kellogg's beliefs lay a notion far from alien to most consumers today. He believed that what we eat fundamentally determines who we are. His particular hobbyhorse was meat, which he blamed for the moral decline of the nation.

Kellogg's views may now appear unhinged, yet they have a certain hold on all of us. The adage that "you are what you eat" has been the subject of serious scientific research. Food additives have been linked with hyperactivity, low blood sugar levels with aggression, and all manner of problems have been traced back to food allergies. *Feed Your Kids a Better IQ* was the title of one widely read book in the 1980s.

Yet despite what appears to be mounting evidence in favour of this thesis, the medical establishment is often sceptical. Those who insist that they need a high level of one vitamin or a diet eliminating common foods in order to function properly rarely have the support of their GPs.

Most doctors simply do not believe that the dietary requirements of the bulk of the population vary that greatly. In a new book, *Food for Thought*, David Benton, a psychologist at the University of Wales, looks at why many of the theories linking food and behaviour have failed to win medical backing.

"Any supposed benefits of an altered diet are explained away with little, if any, consideration as the psychological response of the gullible," he writes.

On the face of it, the medical establishment would often appear to be right. Many of the most startling cases linking food to personality are not backed up when a large-scale study is conducted.

But does this mean they are bogus? Dr Benton points out that medical and scientific research depends on studying averages. Yet what if individuals vary far more greatly than doctors generally accept? An added difficulty is that



double-blind trials, used to eliminate the placebo effect, cannot always be applied to dietary research. If you extract one major food source from the diet, Dr Benton points out, another has to be added for the sake of balance.

But when anecdotal evidence for food theories is so strong, it is no wonder that many people reject the conservatism of doctors and continue to believe that changing your diet can change your life.

One of the most moving cases is described by the psychiatrist Richard Mackarness in his book *Not All in the Mind*. He relates the near-tragic tale of Joanna, confined to a mental hospital after the birth of her third baby. Depressed and irritable, she had become violent towards her children, knocking her three-year-old son unconscious and throwing her daughter through a ground-floor window. Her future looked bleak.

Under Dr Mackarness, Jo-

anna was weaned off her daily cocktail of drugs and put on a fast. After just three days she became co-operative and described how for years her nose had itched, her eyes had watered and she had been greatly overweight. Gradually more foods were added to her diet until it became clear that bacon, egg, porridge, veal, tongue, coffee and chocolate produced a negative reaction.

Next, these foods were administered directly to her stomach through a tube, so she would not know what she was eating (to rule out any simply emotional reaction). The results stood up and Joanna went home without drugs, but clutching a menu.

The cover of Mackarness's book claims that Joanna's case shows "how millions may be made ill, physically and mentally, by common foods such as milk, eggs, coffee and white flour". But as Dr Benton points out, one case can do no such thing.

This has not stopped hun-

dreds of people from paying for allergy and food intolerance tests. In response to the hunger for information about our diets, this month Safeway introduced an allergy testing service into five of its supermarkets.

But can our friends really suffer from so many allergies? Mackarness estimates that 30 per cent of the problems seen by GPs are exclusively due to food and chemical allergy. But consultants specialising in adverse food reactions find that many of those who believe they respond adversely to certain foods are displaying a psychological rather than a biological response.

The medical definition of an allergy is very strict: laboratory tests must show that an antibody called immunoglobulin E has been released after the food is eaten. Any other reaction falls into the wider category of a food intolerance. Within traditional medicine, it is estimated that less than 1 per cent of the population of Europe displays a food intolerance, let alone an allergy.

Similarly, doctors are contemptuous of the idea that differences in our basic biology mean that some of us require large doses of vitamins. This concept took root in the late 1960s after Linus Pauling, a Nobel prize-winning chemist, proposed that large doses of vitamins could benefit the body and help sufferers from some forms of mental illness.

Megavitamin therapy is extreme and can involve doses of 100 or 1,000 times the recommended daily amount (RDA). It has been used, controversially, to treat severe autism (using vitamin B6) and schizophrenia (using niacin).

When most of us take vitamins as a food supplement, we are usually taking only one or two times the RDA. In certain circumstances this might be unhealthy, but it is a far cry from what Pauling was recommending. Then again, most of us do not suffer from severe psychological disorders.

In recent years, however, there has been growing interest in high doses of vitamin C for apparently normal children. A 1994 study suggested that children with low vitamin C status tended to have lower intelligence scores. But studies looking at whether high doses of vitamin C can help with serious learning difficulties have been inconclusive — not all children respond in the same way to supplements.

Should we avoid treatments simply because they are controversial? "In the light of the known adverse reactions to large doses of a few vitamins... it seems sensible to suggest



Fighting fit: some experts claim that altering diet, like taking aerobic exercise, can bring enormous health benefits

that megavitamin therapy should be implemented only under medical supervision," comments Dr Benton.

But as he points out, unconventional treatments can become caught in a vicious circle. Mainstream doctors will not try them, so the desperate relatives of disturbed or mentally ill patients turn to practitioners of fringe medicine. Sometimes these people have overstated their claims. Hopes are raised only to be dashed.

For almost every food theory, there is at least one

example of an apparently miraculous change. But even when there are many such cases — as with the link between food additives, allergies and hyperactivity — the picture is confused.

Some children do suffer from both hyperactivity and allergies. But which comes first? "It is simply not known whether the allergic reaction to food directly influences the brain," points out Dr Benton. "or whether hyperactivity is a psychological response to the stress of the allergy."

Parents driven to distraction by their children's behaviour will hardly care very much, so long as a change in diet appears to bring results.

Food for Thought by David Benton, Penguin Books, £6.99.

DEALING WITH HYPERACTIVE CHILDREN

HYPERACTIVE children all display the same symptoms. Some are impulsive and aggressive; others are unable to concentrate; some are constantly running around.

There has been enormous publicity about the link between hyperactivity and additives. The furore began in the 1970s when the number of hyperactive children increased, and an American paediatrician, Dr Joseph Feingold, suggested additives might be a cause.

He advocated a diet which avoided any foods containing natural salicylates and additives, and presented papers suggesting that between 40 and 70 per cent of hyperactive children who adhered to his

diet showed a reduction in hyperactive behaviour.

In 1976, the psychologist Keith Connors tested the theory by randomly allocating hyperactive children to Feingold's diet and one other. He found that there might be a small subgroup of hyperactive children who benefited from the Feingold diet, but that the results were inconclusive. By 1983, 20 studies had been carried out.

So what are parents to think? Feingold's diet appears to work in non-experimental situations, but falls down under strict conditions. "The only reasonable conclusion is that most of the improvement is psychological — a placebo response," writes Dr Benton.

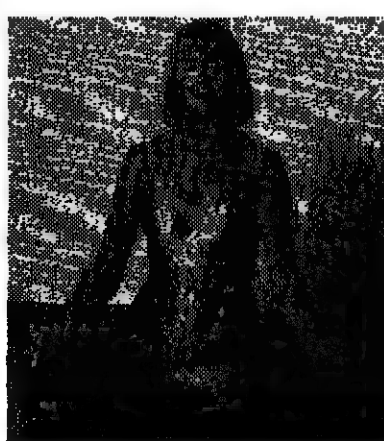
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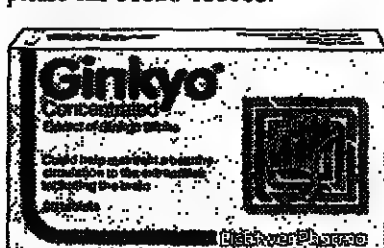


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The dangers of drinking and smoking together A deadly combination

DURING the last years of his life, the Duke of Windsor's interests centred on the social round in Paris and New York. When in France he spent weekends at his Mill House where the entertainment followed a well-ordered pattern. The lunchtime drill included drinks on the terrace, at which the Duke liked to act as his own barman. The Duke mixed a particularly pulverising dry Martini, of which he was very proud, and which was mainly gin.

Prince Edward's sympathetic television account of his great-uncle included many shots of him with a glass in his hand, and a cigarette or cigar in his mouth, and even among the memorabilia shown as an introduction to the film, there was a particularly splendid pipe which could well have been a prop in a Bulldog Drummond film.

The Duke of Windsor's lifestyle included many of the factors which increase the chance of developing a cancer of the mouth, nasal spaces or throat. These oral and nasopharyngeal tumours are often triggered by the combination of a regular use of tobacco and alcohol, even if neither is taken to any very great excess. This combination of the Duke's cigars, pipe and cigarette smoke, coupled with the gin from his cocktails, would have made him prey to a cancer of the tonsils, the cause of his death.

All cancers of the mouth are found more often in men than women, probably because of their lifestyle.

Although cancer of the tonsils is not common, it is a risk for all those who smoke and drink regularly and is second only to cancer of the voice box, the larynx, as a site of malignancy in the upper respiratory tract.

As in any other cause of inflammation of the tonsils, a persistent sore throat is usually the first symptom of malignancy, but the significance of this may not be realised until there is a secondary malignant enlargement of the tonsillar gland in the neck. Unfortunately in the Duke of Windsor's

case, the disease spread rapidly, but others are luckier, for modern surgery and radiotherapy give a patient a 50 per cent chance of making a full recovery.

The same risk factors which predispose to cancer of the tonsil also apply to other cancers of the mouth and oesophagus.

A third of patients who have tumours in any of these sites, and have been subjected to this lifestyle, will later develop a second primary tumour after the first one has been treated; in consequence, careful annual checks are strongly recommended. One of the most misleading medical myths, still perpetuated in family health encyclopaedias, is that tumours in the mouth first show as white patches, leucoplakia.

Some malignancies are initially white but the overwhelming majority of these prove to be benign after they have, quite correctly, been biopsied.

The more dangerous patches in the mouth which have a very much higher rate of malignancy are those which appear red from the very first. A persistent red inflamed area which may have a velvety appearance is an ominous sign of danger ahead and needs immediate attention.

ANY change in the appearance of the lining of the mouth, whether it is red or white, and which lasts for more than three weeks despite treatment, needs an expert opinion and biopsy. Recent press reports recounted the story of a man who had had a tongue reconstructed after surgery for cancer.

His first action on returning home, after pioneering surgery which has enabled him once again to talk and drink, was to visit his pub.

He wanted to wish his old cronies good health and enjoy a few pints. It was an unwise action, for after any oral tumour, smoking and drinking and any other habit which leaves the mouth dry must be abandoned.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

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Engineers will put UK employees on works councils

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITISH companies affected by Brussels' plans to bring in European-style works councils will all include their UK employees on the new bodies in spite of the Government's social chapter opt-out, engineering industry leaders said yesterday.

The findings of the EEF engineering employers, after consulting widely among UK engineering companies, mark a contrast between the pragmatic approach of business to the introduction of European works councils (EWCs) and the strong opposition voiced by government ministers and national business leaders.

EEF leaders drew some criticism from engineering companies for mounting a series of regional meetings on EWCs, with some companies arguing that it not only undermined the social chapter opt-out negotiated from the Maastricht treaty by the Prime Minister, but also

would actively encourage EWC formation.

Reporting back yesterday, EEF leaders said a clear majority had only just started to think about the introduction of EWCs and a significant minority had undertaken no planning for them at all. An EU directive comes into force on September 22.

Though the opt-out means many companies will be unaffected by the directive, those with transnational interests will be and some are reaching negotiated agreements in advance.

Peter Reid, EEF European affairs co-ordinator, said yesterday the EEFs exercise showed that no UK company affected by the EWC directive had said they would exclude their British employees from any consultation structures they established. The conclusion underlines the extent to which British companies and their employees will be affect-

ed by EWCs, despite the opt-out. Currently, some 30 UK companies have negotiated EWC-style deals, and EEF leaders expect that number to rise to about 40, or possibly 50, by the time the EWC directive falls due later this year.

The EEF said yesterday that this would leave some 100 UK companies negotiating from September under a legally-determined process already set in place by Brussels.

Across Europe, a further 900 companies would be in this position. The EEF calculates that there will be about 300 voluntary agreements in place from about 1,500 companies affected.

UK subsidiaries of companies headquartered in countries such as the US and Canada are concerned, according to the EEF's consultation exercise, that the EWC directive will be a further cost hurdle to operating in Europe, with little or no benefit.



Cards close to their chests: John Jackson, left, with Peter George, chief executive, played down merger talk yesterday

Ladbroke lengthens merger odds

By Alasdair Murray

JOHN JACKSON, chairman of Ladbroke, yesterday played down speculation of a possible merger with Hilton Hotels Corporation of the US, describing talks between the two companies as "at an early stage".

Mr Jackson said at the company's annual meeting that talks between the two companies over re-uniting the Hilton

chains of hotels were exploring a number of avenues. Ladbroke owns the Hilton International chain while Hilton Hotels has the rights to the Hilton name in the US. Speculation had grown in recent weeks that the two companies would seek a full merger.

But Stephen Bollenbach, chief executive of Hilton Hotels, said last week that while a merger of the two hotel operations might be possible, Hilton was not

interested in joining forces with Ladbroke's gaming division. Mr Jackson added that Ladbroke's performance in the first four months of this year had been satisfactory with profits ahead of the corresponding period of last year. The hotel division increased occupancy levels by one percentage point while revenue per room jumped 8 per cent. Ladbroke shares closed down 2p at 187p.

Jobs go as Powerstore outlets close

By Sarah Bagnall

MORE than 250 jobs have been lost as a result of last month's collapse of Powerstore, the electrical retailer formed out of the high street stores of three regional electricity companies.

Arthur Andersen, administrator to the electrical group, yesterday announced the closure of 31 of the group's 85 stores. David Duggins, a partner of Arthur Andersen, said: "There are a number of cases where an electrical retail outlet in the high street is clearly not viable in the face of the competition from out-of-town stores. Furthermore, in the case of some superstores, there is already substantial overcapacity in out-of-town locations." Of the stores closed, seven are superstores.

The remaining 54 stores remain open. Mr Duggins said: "We have received many expressions of interest in the assets of the businesses."

The group was formed from a management buyout in 1993 of London Electricity's retail outlets, which were then merged with 71 Homepower stores, acquired from East Midlands Electricity and Yorkshire Electricity, the joint owners.

Electrifying News from around the World.



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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Court blow for T&N over asbestos claims

T&N suffered a setback yesterday when a US court appeared to open the door to more expensive asbestos litigation. Shares in the automotive components group fell 1p to 164p when T&N revealed that a court had ruled against the "Georgine" Settlement, a procedure whereby all claims for injury due to asbestos are settled through an arbitration procedure. T&N said yesterday that the injunction requiring claimants to use the procedure could cease in 21 days.

T&N said: "Should the injunction cease, it seems likely that the number and cost of new US health-related claims filed against T&N may be greater than under only the 'Georgine' procedures." *Times, page 30*

Cocoa at 8-year high

BUBBLING world cocoa prices whisked to eight-year highs yesterday as speculators bet on scarce supplies in the coming season sending values even higher. Traders said cocoa has been the flavour of the past two months on the London Commodity Exchange where huge positions had been built in order to get hold of cocoa before the new harvest season which starts in October. The price for July delivery cocoa soared to £1,138 a tonne, a level not seen since January 1988.

Workfare redundant

THE Government made clear yesterday its opposition to US-style workfare, state-provided work schemes that the unemployed are compelled to take part in or lose their social benefits. The Government's statement represents its first formal rejection of workfare, an idea much beloved on the political right as a way of reducing the number of "work-shy" benefit claimants. The rejection of workfare came in its response to the former Commons' all-party Employment Select Committee's report on the issue.

Fokker rescue possible

FOKKER, the bankrupt Dutch planemaker, was inching to a possible rescue by Jaap Rosen Jacobson, a businessman, yesterday, but the firm's main suppliers said that they had given the receivers just two more weeks to secure a salvage. Short Brothers, which supplies wings made in Belfast, said it and Daimler Benz Aerospace were negotiating delivery of more supplies to Fokker, but that the Dutch firm would have to find a rescuer before the end of May. Two other interested groups have yet to deliver proposals.

Apple to cut models

APPLE COMPUTERS will seek to dramatically reduce costs by cutting the number of computer models it sells, Gilbert Amelio, the chief executive, said yesterday. He said the company will cut the number of models in half during the next 12 months and focus on its Mac operating system, paring back to one operating system from six. Apple hoped to reduce its costs so that the company can be profitable at \$9 billion in revenues, or \$2 billion below last year's sales, Mr Amelio said.

Coventry drops CU

FALLING demand for endowment mortgages has led the Coventry Building Society to end its association with Commercial Union. The society has been selling the insurer's policies and said yesterday that a review had indicated that more borrowers would be choosing straightforward repayment mortgages. Fears that some endowment policies would not yield sufficient cash to repay loans in full has boosted sales of traditional repayment loans.

Airbus change wins support

MINISTERS responsible for the individual countries participating in Airbus Industrie, the civil aerospace consortium, said that they supported turning Airbus into a single corporate entity. Norbert Lammert, who is responsible for aerospace issues in the German economics ministry, said: "We feel the intended structural changes must take place as quickly as possible." However, several of the ministers said that the final form that the company will take is not clear. Herr Lammert, speaking at a conference for the international Air and Space Exhibition in Berlin, added: "The objective is one common European company."

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.00	1.84
Austria Sch	17.87	15.87
Belgium F	60.80	45.50
Canada \$	2.192	2.025
Cyprus Cyp£	0.761	0.708
Denmark Kr	9.36	8.73
Finland Mk	7.78	7.11
France F	8.26	7.68
Germany Dm	2.48	2.27
Greece Dr	387.00	382.00
Hong Kong \$	12.40	11.40
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.290	4.500
Italy Lira	2442.00	2267.00
Japan Yen	174.00	158.00
Netherlands Gld	0.666	0.543
New Zealand \$	2.752	2.522
Norway Kr	10.35	9.78
Portugal Esc	200.00	231.50
S Africa R	7.18	6.50
Spain Ptas	201.00	188.00
Sweden Kr	10.37	10.17
Switzerland F	2.00	1.82
Turkey Lira	120481	112481
USA \$	1.618	1.486

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Star
sell £
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Allergan
merger is
called off

ALLERGAN, a pharmaceutical company, announced yesterday that it had decided to abandon its merger talks with Pharmacia, a Swedish pharmaceutical company. The merger would have created a new company with sales of \$25 billion. Allergan had been in talks with Pharmacia since last year, but the talks had been on hold since Pharmacia's merger with Hoechst. The merger would have created a new company with sales of \$25 billion. Allergan had been in talks with Pharmacia since last year, but the talks had been on hold since Pharmacia's merger with Hoechst.

Treasury

PFI hit

BUSINESS... expressed... reaction... setback... initiative... Andersen... million... after... computer... National... Treasury... shown... and... said... by... payment... Charles...

مكنا من الأرض

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□ Ofgas offers a model for Labour □ How Barclays could gain from demerger □ Cashbacks cause mutual pain

Renationalising British Gas

OFGAS's plan for TransCo will be pivotal to the future of utility regulation in Britain. The question is whether it will be the system's *reductio ad absurdum* or mark its transition to a new form of socialism.

On the surface, the initial proposals look so silly that they would be a bit of a giggle. They are not £11 billion of private assets, the safety of the nation's gas supply and the future of 20,000 employees at stake. The director-general claims that the review strikes a fair balance between shareholders and consumers and allows "an appropriate return" to investors. The figures put this in perspective.

Ofgas projects that net cash flow available to pay interest on loans and dividends will fall from £721 million in 1996 to between £92 million and £73 million in 1998, if TransCo meets Ofgas efficiency and growth targets. British Gas has borrowings of about £3 billion and last paid a dividend of £630 million, of which TransCo provided about 80 per cent.

No-one has even suggested this strikes a fair balance for employees. TransCo reckons it would have to sack half of them to meet Ofgas targets, but could not safely do so. Employees can

certainly not expect to maintain their living standards. They will continue to be the chief victims of the current regulatory regime.

As the director-general explained, however, this is "an intellectual review". Otherwise, how could Ofgas reckon it was generous to investors. In the practical world, British Gas shares have risen by less than two fifths of the all-share average since privatisation and have actually failed to keep up with inflation, falling in real terms over a full decade. Ofgas manoeuvres charges down by redefining the value of assets, discounting depreciation and then reducing the rate of return, because TransCo is a low-risk investment. In reality, Ofgas has fallen into the regulatory trap of turning TransCo into a high-risk business needing above average returns to be worth touching.

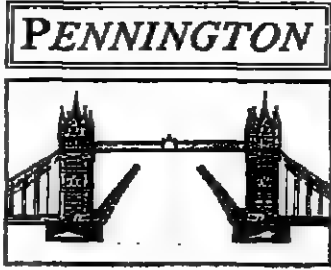
This is where the politics come in. An ambitious regulator cannot afford a review acceptable to the company, for fear of looking weak. This review is meant to

end up with the MMC. It is also a blueprint for a Labour government to eliminate utility investors without having to buy back their assets. Ofgas has already informed Labour's attitude to privatisation, one reason why rail investors should be short-term.

This plan would, in effect, renationalise most of British Gas. Instead of merely preventing monopoly price rises, regulation can be a proxy for ownership, turning the utility into no more than a captured licensed contractor. This is an interesting model, but possibly not quite what Conservatives had in mind.

An answer to Taylor's prayers

MARTIN TAYLOR appears pretty cheered off with the stock market these days. Used to being a City darling while at Court-aids Textiles, the Barclays chief executive is finding life as head of a poorly rated high street bank



rather more of a strain. Last week, Mr Taylor told a banking conference in the French town of Annecy that the markets appear to think Barclays' management constitutes "a bunch of idiots", adding: "It is my job to prove them wrong."

But how will he do this? Through a slow slog of well-behaved results, keeping growth in tight reign for fear of stepping on a landmine. Or through some radical solution that proves Mr Taylor is indeed the breath of fresh air the banking market has been waiting for.

For a while, Mr Taylor has been showing analysts a chart

dividing Barclays into four businesses — personal, corporate and investment banking and asset management.

He denies that this is either a corporate structure or a template for a demerger. But Martin Hughes, at Credit Lyonnais Laing, the stockbroker, has done a "what if?" study on the possibility of demerging the latter two, which are contained within Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

The result could be the answer to Mr Taylor's prayers. Hughes reckons that floating a minority stake in BZW would value that business at around £2.5 billion. Valuing the rest on a same rating as the bank that they would most resemble, Lloyds TSB, would give a price tag of at least the current Barclays market value, of £12 billion.

It seems like a sleight of hand. But recent regulatory changes mean that having an asset-rich retail bank does not help the capital ratios of an investment bank in the same group. And the value released at Mr Taylor's old

home, Court-aids, by the demerger of the chemical and textiles business, shows what can be done.

Lenders trapped by mobile loans

WHAT we really need is a return to the old days of the building society cartel dictating what can be loaned and when. The view is not from a borrower's point of view, but a lender's. Caught in the trap of forever giving borrowers thousands of pounds in incentives and finding that their share of the mortgage market is not growing.

Thousands of customers are benefiting each year from cashbacks of up to £9,000 when they take out home loans even if they do not move house. They cannot believe their luck receiving real cash, not vouchers, for remortgaging. Not surprisingly, such deals are more attractive than cheap rates to borrowers, and they are hurting the lenders

that invented the schemes to try to breathe life into the housing market. It did not work.

Few borrowers are moving house, but customers like the idea of a few thousand pounds every couple of years just for moving their loan about. Not surprisingly, the lenders are getting a bit anxious and beginning to admit that they cannot afford to keep on handing out large cheques to new customers, but they also cannot afford to be the first ones to say enough is enough or they will lose precious market share.

They feel there is little to gain from continuing to offer such largesse but everything to gain from being a meanie. For once, it looks like the Building Societies Commission is riding to their rescue in the form of Geoffrey Fitchew, who will be warning societies at their annual conference this week that they must place limits on the proportion of lending that is discounted or has a cashback attached if they are not to put themselves at risk. Many would secretly like the commission to go further, or for the might of the building society movement to walk away from such costly gimmicks. Customers should buy now before the cheques bounce.

Standard Life to sell £900m stake in Bank of Scotland

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE Bank of Scotland was tipped as a takeover target yesterday after it confirmed that Standard Life, a big shareholder, was planning to sell its 32.2 per cent stake.

The shares rose 14p to 252½p as the City speculated that possible buyers for the holding, estimated at about £900 million, included HSBC, Midland Bank's parent, NatWest Bank, Abbey National and the Halifax Building Society that might use it to launch a full bid.

Meanwhile, Standard Life, a leading mutual life company and one of Britain's biggest investors, stressed that its decision to sell all or part of the stake, which it had held for more than 11 years, did not affect its business partnerships with Bank of Scotland, Bank of Scotland, whose governor is Sir Bruce Patullo, sells Standard Life general and life insurance products through its branches and is the preferred bank to run the deposit-taking service Standard has planned for launch later this year.

A spokeswoman said: "This does not affect the plans for the banking service which are still at an embryonic stage."

Neither side was willing

yesterday to indicate what percentage of the stake would be sold. Shares in Royal Bank of Scotland, which had also been tipped as a takeover target, fell yesterday and SBC Warburg advised clients to switch out of Royal Bank into Bank of Scotland and downgraded Royal Bank to a "hold" from a "speculative buy".

Some reports had suggested that Standard Life wanted to sell its stake because it was uneasy at Bank of Scotland's acquisition of the Bank of Western Australia last year, a move it might have seen as speculative. A merger between Royal Bank of Scotland and



Patullo: confirmed sale

Bank of Scotland might incur intervention by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission because of questions over competition rules.

Scott Bell, group managing director of Standard Life, said: "The investment has been a very good one for us with above-average earnings and dividend growth but it now represents in excess of 6 per cent of our UK equity portfolio. This is a large proportion for a single investment. Standard Life continues to have confidence in Bank of Scotland's future prospects and strategies, but we nevertheless believe it could be in the interests of our policyholders to rebalance our equity portfolio by realising some or all of our stake."

Standard Life, which has denied that it is considering plans for a stock market flotation, might use the cash to buy a small mutual life insurer or a building society. Both the general and life sectors of insurance in the UK are currently in a state of turmoil as companies merge and consolidate. Alternatively, it could use the extra cash to increase its solvency margin, or reinvest it in other UK equities.

Tempus, page 30

Allergan merger is called off

ALLERGAN, a maker of eye care and skin products, announced yesterday that its merger talks with Pharmacia and Upjohn had failed.

The merger, which would have given Pharmacia and Upjohn a platform for a new glaucoma product, would have valued Allergan at \$2.5 billion.

Allergan has grown rapidly since 1989 when it was hived off from SmithKline during its merger with Beecham and had revenues last year of \$1.07 billion. A third of its business is contact lens care products, in which it has 11 per cent of the world market. This would fit well with Pharmacia and Upjohn's eye care sales.

Kunick optimistic on gaming laws

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

KUNICK, the gaming and leisure company, blamed a heavy investment programme for a flat half year as the company yesterday unveiled a 3 per cent increase in profits, before exceptional items, to £4 million.

The company insisted that the second half would be stronger, with new gaming deregulation coming into effect that will allow fruit machines to pay out all-cash prizes and to be placed on betting shop premises. Kunick was also optimistic about the introduction of the new Smilin' Sam's food and fruit machine ventures.

Russell Smith, chief executive, said: "Reorganisation in France and the introduction of new gaming machines in the

UK cost around £1 million in profits for the first half. But the introduction of the new £10 all-cash machine will be a major benefit and will expand the market."

Profits from the core UK gaming machines division had increased by 16 per cent, helped by new contracts and an increase in the maximum payout from £6 to £8. Profits from the French gaming subsidiary fell by £500,000 after restructuring costs.

The French nursing division increased profits by 68 per cent. The company said it was looking to dispose of the business in the medium term.

The interim dividend was raised by 20 per cent to 0.3p. Shares in the company fell ¾p to 30½p.

Stakis develops a healthy interest in fitness

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

STAKIS, the leisure company, moved into the health and fitness market yesterday with the £20 million purchase of LivingWell Health and Leisure company.

Stakis already has 25 fitness clubs based in the company's hotels but said the latest purchase would enable it to build a stand-alone business. Living-

Well has five city centre clubs in operation, with a total membership of 12,500, and last year made an operating profit of £1 million. Stakis said it was aiming to open another six clubs a year over the next few years, while rebranding the existing hotel clubs.

Stakis also announced yesterday the appointment of Anthony Harris as managing director of Stakis hotels. Mr Harris, who is currently a senior

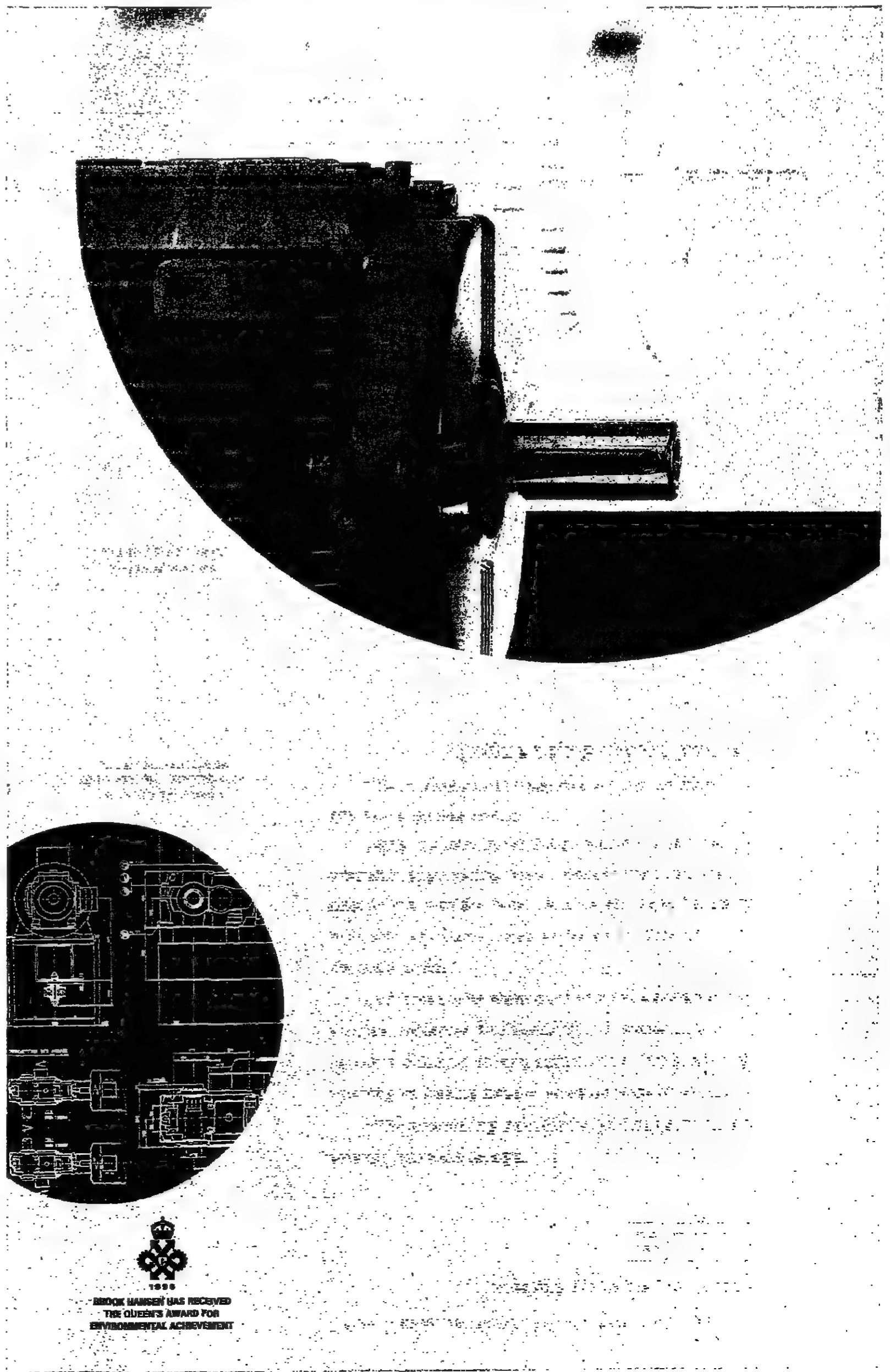
vice-president of ITC Sheraton/Ciga Hotels with responsibility for the company's Italian resorts, will also serve as a director on the main board.

The company added that it had completed a strategic review of its operations and was setting a target of 15 per cent annual earnings growth, while maintaining long-term gearing at about 50 per cent. Stakis is aiming to expand its casino interests abroad

and will concentrate on meeting yield growth and development capital expenditure targets in its hotel division.

David Michels, chief executive, said: "The strategy we have unveiled today and the acquisition we have announced will carry us forward to an even more successful future." Shares in the company rose 2p to close at 110p.

Tempus, page 30



Treasury reaction troubles business leaders

PFI hits another setback

By PAUL DURMAN

BUSINESS leaders yesterday expressed dismay at the Treasury's reaction to the latest setback to the Private Finance Initiative.

Andersen Consulting is having to shoulder more than £10 million of additional costs after falling behind schedule on the delivery of a new computer system for handling National Insurance records.

The Treasury said the heavy costs being borne by Andersen showed that PFI worked — and, in one report, an official said the Treasury was delighted by the huge compensation payment. Charles Cox, an

executive director of Hoskyns, the computer services company, and chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's PFI working group, said that he was appalled by the tone of the Government's reaction. "It will frighten a lot of potential suppliers."

Mr Cox said that the Treasury reaction exposed the cultural problems the PFI faced. Civil servants were keen to offload project risks on to private sector businesses, but unwilling to redefine objectives as work got under way and the difficulties became better understood. Alan Ste-

vens, managing director of the social security division of EDS, the computer services company, said: "The Government should not expect to shovel all the risks over the fence into the arms of the supplier."

Andersen said the taxpayer was saving millions of pounds a year thanks to the company taking over the running of the NI computer systems.

It dismissed industry talk of a £25 million bill for compensation and additional running costs. It said it still hoped to make money on the contract, which runs until 2004.



THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT

British Gas shares hit for £1.2bn by Ofgas review

THE equity market was unsettled as British Gas dived 27p to 201p, on heavy turnover of 54.6 million shares, after Clare Sportswear, of Ofgas, the gas regulator, shocked the City by unveiling a tougher-than-expected price review.

The share price fall, which wiped nearly £1.2 billion off the company's market value, was exacerbated by considerable put options activity and the harshness of the Ofgas statement. Ofgas has called for cuts of between 20 per cent and 25 per cent in the first year at Transco, the group's demerged pipeline and transportation business. British Gas rejected what it called draconian proposals and threatened to go to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The company said its revenues would be slashed by more than its current profits, while jobs and dividends would also suffer.

British Gas was the dominating factor for equities, with the fall in its share price accounting for more than six points of the FT-SE 100 index. Ex-dividends in a number of stocks including BP, General Accident and SmithKline Beecham wiped a further three points off the index. A positive start to trading on Wall Street failed to lift London and the FT-SE 100 index ended down 15.2 points at 3,739.2 in thin conditions. Volume reached only 674 million shares.

Meanwhile, the speculators turned their attention to Bank of Scotland, the oldest financial institution in Scotland. The bank's independence was placed under threat after Standard Life, the insurance group, said it was considering selling all or part of its 32.2 per cent stake. A possible stake sale is seen as putting the Bank of Scotland in play as a takeover target, driving the shares up 14p to 252p, on heavy volume of 10.6 million shares. City analysts said if the shares, acquired in 1985, are put on the market, the bank would be wide open to a UK rival seeking expansion or a foreign predator, possibly from Germany. If the entire stake is sold to a single buyer, the purchaser would be obliged to make a full bid under City takeover rules.

British Aerospace rose 11p to 874p after the defence to aerospace group announced a missile joint venture with Matra, the French defence company. BAE and Matra



Alan Peterson, left, and John Dobby, chief executive, of Meyer

have agreed to merge their missile businesses under Matra BAE Dynamics. The deal is between BAE and Matra Hachette, a subsidiary of the Lagardere Groupe. Under the deal, BAE will pay between £50 million and £10 million, depending on the relative number of orders won by the product lines of the two companies over the next four

years. BAE said it would back Lagardere's bid to gain control of Thomson SEF, the French electronics group. Elsewhere in the engineering sector, Panmure Gordon advised a switch from T1 Group, down 5p to 54p, into Siebe, up 1p to 86p. Brier speculation helped Meyer International to gain 11p to 44p, with talk that Wolsley may be considering

Keep an eye on Pex, the children's sock manufacturer and distributor that plans to invest £1 million in new machinery this month to lift capacity 20 per cent. Analysts expect current year profits of £450,000, putting the shares, unchanged at 5p, at an attractive p/e multiple of 6.6.

infections, to rise 1p to 380p, while Shire Pharmaceuticals gained 12p to 200p on the launch of a new vitamin tablet and British Biotech climbed 22p to £29.55 ahead of a cancer treatment update this month.

Orb Estates was marked up 5p to 72p as speculation heightened about a possible reverse takeover from Quintain, the private property group headed by Nigel Ellis.

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5534.21 (+16.06)
S&P Composite	655.01 (+2.97)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	2171.82 (+248.30)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10746.00 (+148.27)
Amsterdam:	
Euro Stoxx	555.57 (+0.74)
Sydney:	
ASX	2356.9 (-0.51)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2496.17 (+27.39)
Singapore:	
Strait Times	2385.46 (+15.22)
Brussels:	
General	9145.92 (+77.38)
Paris:	
CAC 40	2100.85 (+13.95)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	781.40 (+1.40)
London:	
FT 100	3739.2 (-15.2)
FT 100 Mid 250	4512.4 (-0.4)
FT 100 All Share	1682.94 (-5.1)
FT 100 Financials	2006.34 (-7.54)
FT 100 Industrials	111.46 (-0.34)
FT 100 Govt	92.19 (-0.21)
SEAG Volume	3528
USM (Daxisim)	697.40
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German Mark	2.3210 (+0.0000)
Exchange Index	84.4 (-0.04)
Bank of England official close (Hopt)	1.216
EUCE	1.216
ESPR	1.0902
USD/JPY	151.5 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1987/1.00

THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Seeing double

HAVING made it to four issues, *Sunday Business* is facing double jeopardy over an attack on *Loot*, the free advertising newspaper. The hapless weekly is being sued by *Loot* for libel after claiming that half of the goods advertised in it were stolen. *Loot* has also noticed a striking similarity between that piece and one written last year by the same journalist in *Business Age*. *Sunday Business* founder Tom Rubythorn's previous publication.

Short cuts

SIR DAVID SIMON, hailed KPMG businessman of the year at the Savoy Hotel yesterday, said he kept his speech decidedly short to make room for politician and guest speaker Peter Mandelson. In the words of Alf Danaher, Fifties boxing champion, the BP chairman sniffed: "I'd like to thank my manager, (sniff) my trainer, (sniff) and all those that made this victory possible." He also quoted Elizabeth Taylor's sixth husband: "You've made an old man very happy."

Taxing times

NOT content with introducing self-assessment and endless tax returns, the Inland Revenue's latest wheeze is to send out weekly questionnaires, asking taxpayers to answer endless questions on its level of service. The letter, which begins "Dear Taxpayer", asks respondents to evaluate the following: "The service I get from the Inland Revenue is very impersonal, it's just like you're a number."



IT WAS champagne and cake at Charterhouse yesterday, to celebrate ten years since the opening of the London office of its stockbroking arm, Victor Blank, chairman, surprised staff, creeping up with a cake for Mike Orsborn, head of sales at Charterhouse Tilney.

'Morning all'

PETER GEORGE, chief executive of the Ladbroke Group, was almost half-way through his speech at the company's AGM yesterday, when a familiar face barged its way into the room. The interloper, who frequently tries to break his way into champagne and canapés-filled parties, is well-known at the London Hilton, but hasn't made it past the hotel lobby before. After knocking two damsons down, the perpetual gate-crasher of interims and prelims was ejected in fairly short order.

Only the best

THE Confederation of British Industry is regularly giving warning of the effects of raising salaries too severely. Its personnel department has clearly taken this to heart. In its search for a senior policy officer, the employers' organisation promotes the post as an opportunity to work closely with government departments, City institutions and its own National Manufacturing Council. An articulate economics graduate with excellent analytical skills is preferred — and all for a princely £23,000 per annum.

MORAG PRESTON

TransCo laid open to fire in regulatory battlefield

Christine Buckley says the prospects look bleak for British Gas's demerger and funding hopes

British Gas and the industry regulator have been squaring up for a bloody fight over pricing restraints on the beleaguered company's pipeline business. But yesterday's confrontation was far more violent than expected.

Clare Sportiswood weighed in with revenue cuts on TransCo that exceeded the toughest estimates in a package that she said would trim household gas bills by £50 a year in the review period. British Gas, mindful of yesterday's crumbling share price and of price cuts so onerous that they outpace last year's profits, warned of business failure, 10,000 job cuts and safety imperilment.

Ms Sportiswood is arguing for consumer bonanzas on the grounds that TransCo, the only money-spinning ace that British Gas has left, has consistently overvalued itself and overestimated spending. British Gas accused her of mounting one of the biggest smash-and-grab raids in a huge sweep that will destabilise the industry at a critical time of its development. At stake is up to £850 million in revenue from the independent gas shippers that use TransCo's pipeline network. They can look forward to reduced tariffs while the end user — households and businesses — should benefit from substantially reduced bills.

British Gas is arguing that without a commercial rate of return, it cannot invest adequately in the business. It says that safety and maintenance will be at risk and the company will not be able to meet its legal obligations in those areas. It further complains that competition in the supply of domestic gas — already operating on a pilot scheme in the South West — places additional heavy investment burdens on TransCo. Conflict between the regulator and regulators is not new.



British Gas says its pipeline business is worth £17 billion; Ofgas cites a much lower figure

Indeed, ready agreement would be unnatural and unpopular with shareholders who are not looking at the companies they invest in to let cash bleed happily, on the instructions of regulators.

The disparity between British Gas and Ofgas is, however, unprecedented. The Gas Consumers Council — no friend of British Gas — has welcomed the price reductions and has condemned historic pricing

flaws. But it has also said that the stand-off between the two has serious implications. It has said that the public interest is at stake as the regulator and the company stand either side of a vast mathematical gulf with the national asset of a gas pipeline at stake.

British Gas values its pipeline business at £17 billion. The regulator puts that figure at between £9 billion and £11 billion. Ms Sportiswood says

that the company has enjoyed the benefits of an annual underpayment of about 30 per cent. She has attacked a cash mountain of £2.5 billion which British Gas has put aside for pipeline renewal that is not needed until 2010.

Either one side has got its mathematics badly wrong or the virulent arguments that leave the future of several thousand employees, gas prices and the investment of millions

of Sids hanging in the balance are vocal, public negotiations between the two parties.

The company and Ofgas may have put their strongest cards on the table, but talks continue until June when the regulator will recommend the level of the one-off hit that she will make on revenues and the annual curbs linked to inflation. She has already said she will not be persuaded that those should fall outside the 20-28 per cent one-off cut in revenues and the running curb of RPI-X proposed yesterday. British Gas equally maintains the unworkability of the controls.

The rejection of the controls by British Gas will lead to a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, a process which could take several months. The company will look to the MMC to determine that Ofgas has substantially undervalued the assets and expectations of spending. It will contend that the severe restraints on tariffs will scupper all incentives to increase volume and suffocate performance enhancement.

Ms Sportiswood's expectations of the company are that it can improve performance through greater efficiencies. She is sceptical of the company's claim that 10,000 jobs must go and says that her office has calculated the job implications to be less than the typical turnover of a leading UK company. Figures to go with that are less forthcoming, however.

The MMC is a wild card. British Gas will not be able to call on many allies. It can expect the independent gas shippers, who will gain from sharp tariff reductions as they gear up for 1998's full competitive market in gas, to continue their calls for even harsher curbs than those proposed by Ofgas. A referral will also coincide with heighted pressure on the privatised industries as Labour gears up its offensive.

Whichever way this stand-off is ultimately resolved, the prospects must be distinctly bleak for British Gas's demerger and funding hopes. One half of its business has liabilities of enormous proportions with British Gas Trading's exposure to the costly take-or-pay contracts. There it has £40 billion tied up in contracts forcing it to buy gas at higher prices than it can sell it for. The other half has a monopoly business capable of generating substantial cash, but facing punitive regulation. It is a nightmare mix for those orchestrating one of British industry's biggest demergers.

A few months ago, it may have seemed to serve British Gas's purposes to divide and control the two major parts of the company, ringfencing the take-or-pay liabilities in British Gas Trading while allowing TransCo to go its own way and pump cash to deliver a decent dividend. Now, with the regulatory threat proving far harsher than the most bearish City forecasts, TransCo looks distinctly open to fire.



Tory right is wrong on tax

Conservative right-wingers whipped themselves into a predictable lather after Kenneth Clarke gave a warning against cutting taxes when public borrowing is exceeding forecasts.

John Townend, chairman of the 92 group, said that the Government was honour-bound to cut taxes because it had promised to do so in its 1992 election manifesto. If public finances are in a mess, he said, Mr Clarke must go. That sentiment was echoed yesterday by Terry Dicks, a backbencher, who said Mr Clarke should be replaced by John Redwood.

That is unworthy silliness. Apart from anything else, sacking a Chancellor within a year of an election is potentially pretty damaging. Losing Mr Clarke, who has won considerable respect for his handling of the big fiscal and monetary decisions, would be lunacy.

What the tax-cut zealots are urging on Mr Clarke — and what he is resisting — is a period of wilful profligacy that may give the Government an outside chance of winning the election, but, much more importantly, has the huge advantage of making it extremely difficult for an incoming Labour administration.

There is certainly a camp that argues that course, however damaging for the country. Just before last November's Budget, a prominent Tory said that the Government was duty-bound to be irresponsible in order to create a mess for Gordon Brown, who he fully expected to be in Number 10. But such aggressive nihilism will surely not win the day.

If Mr Clarke no longer has much hope of making it to Number 10, he at least wants his place in the history books as a sensible Chancellor. He also understands something that seems to be lost on some of his right-wing critics. The electorate does not trust the Tories on tax. Large tax cuts in November, after the unprecedented tax assault since 1992, would invite derision.

Mr Townend's call for tax cuts because they were promised in the 1992 manifesto is laughable given what happened as soon as the election was won. It is difficult to imagine a pre-election tax bribe big enough to overcome the electorate's weariness with such tactics.

Mr Clarke also argues rightly that lower taxes do not equal electoral victory, particularly if those cuts are bought by cutting spending

on education, health and the police. And lower taxes probably weigh light in the balance compared with people's desire for a change, disapprobation about sleet, and the insecurity in the world of work that Labour is campaigning on.

So, ideological warfare within the Conservative Party over tax is making front page headlines but, in the rational world, there is little content about the issue.

The City, always wheeled out by Tory MPs as the preferred judge and jury of their policies, is unruffled by current goings-on. Mr Clarke delivers black warnings against cutting taxes. The City concludes that he is doing the usual job of Chancellors at this time of year — a few weeks before the public spending round gets under way — and emphasising how awful the public finances are to instil discipline at the outset on department heads.

Mr Clarke suggests that hopes of tax cuts are unrealistic. The City remembers that he said the same thing last year and still found small cuts in public spending to finance modest tax cuts. It fully expects him to do the same this year.

It is the City's view that, if he manages to pull off this trick, he will have done about the best that his party could realistically expect. There is a hole in tax revenues that was unexpected and still cannot fully be explained. There has, too, been a worse than anticipated slowdown in Europe that has hit growth here.

And it is difficult to conceive that the Government can continue even to match the toughness on public spending that it has, admirably, achieved in recent years. Public spending has always risen in the year before an election. To hold it steady would be a considerable triumph of prudent economic stewardship.

Mr Clarke's critics on the right may argue: "Hang prudence, let's win the election." But they reckon without another calculation the Chancellor has to make. He wants to avoid a rise in interest rates until after the election, if humanly possible. That would be exceedingly difficult if he were to give in to his colleagues' demands for big tax cuts that everyone knows are not justified economically.

How would the Conservative right like campaigning on the nation's doorsteps just as mortgage rates are rising?

Joanna Pitman assesses Burma's economy

British business marches slowly back on the road to Mandalay

Burma's ruling military junta is doing its utmost to lure direct foreign capital investment, with a target of \$600 million a year.

This is ludicrously ambitious but since the early 1990s, foreign investment has trickled very slowly into Burma and is now gathering pace.

Burmese Government figures (never safely considered accurate but nonetheless accepted as guidelines) show that in 1995 Britain invested more than any other nation in Burma, now officially known as Myanmar. A total of 17 projects worth a cumulative total of \$643.5 million had been approved, a full \$100 million ahead of Singapore, the next biggest investor.

British Government officials hastily point out that the majority of the projects are not strictly British, being foreign investments from France and elsewhere booked for tax reasons through the British Virgin Islands and Bermuda.

But British firms are nonetheless beginning to show their colours in Burma. Premier Oil has invested \$20 million with substantially more committed to follow. Rothmans has a cigarette factory. The recently refurbished Strand Hotel in Rangoon and other key tourist hotels around the country are under British ownership via Hong Kong.

Caution, however, is still strongly advised. Burma has only recently emerged from almost a quarter century of self-imposed isolation and introspection. Burma's hibernation began in 1962 when the Burmese Way of Socialism was imposed. Nationalisation programmes were implemented, contacts with the outside world were all but totally cut off, an almost paranoid xenophobia took hold and all progress was rejected in the name of cultural integrity.

growth had barely kept up with population expansion and living standards had fallen steadily. Annual inflation averaged 20 per cent and the budget deficit and current account gap was widening. Underlying causes included against agriculture, restrictions on private sector activity and the inefficiency of state-run industries.

The Sior's "open door" programme of reforms sought to expand the role of the private sector, curbing government intervention and gradually liberalising agricultural pricing and marketing. Private banks have been licensed, investment incentives offered to locals and foreign exchange trading potential offered to private exporters.

However, a World Bank

report of October 1995 concluded that in spite of reforms aimed at expanding exports, encouraging agriculture and promoting private sector and foreign participation in economic activity, the pace of economic growth is still not rapid enough to compensate for the economic stagnation of the preceding quarter century, and its sustainability is uncertain.

British officials insist, however, that the potential is there for significant future returns from investments and contacts made now. British companies are being encouraged to capitalise on Britain's historic links with the country (Burma was a British colony as part of British India from 1885 until 1947) and the positive light in which British manufacturing firms are viewed in Burma.

"The Burmese were so cut

off from the rest of the world in the Seventies and Eighties that they didn't notice the decline of British industry. In their eyes today, British is still best, and we should take advantage of this while we can," said one British businessman in Rangoon.

Foreign investment to date from all countries has been concentrated largely in the oil and gas, mining and tourist hotel sectors and has averaged about \$190 million a year since 1991.

At least four multi-storey hotels are under construction in central Rangoon by Thai, Taiwanese and Hong Kong Chinese firms, a rather ambitious development given that the new ones that are finished, most of them glossy marble monstrosities, are far from full, and even now that they are well into "Visit Myanmar Year".

Even Japan, one of Asia's more risk-averse nations, appears to be getting serious about Burma. The semi-governmental Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro) will open an office in Rangoon next year to provide a focused information source for putative Japanese investors. The large trading companies are already represented. Fuji Bank has opened an office as has the Japan Tourist Board. Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways are planning direct flights to Rangoon from next year.

British companies do not want to be left out of this emerging market but likewise do not want to sink money into the country until economic stability is more certain. Political stability, which should eventually underpin any future economic growth, is still also elusive. The military junta still keeps a harsh repressive gag on all political opposition and Amnesty International has evidence of thousands of political prisoners still in detention without trial.

Judging by the foreign advertising pyrotechnics, however, that line the road into Rangoon from the airport, the international Coca Cola culture has already arrived.



Burmese days: much of the country is still in the bicycle era

Recommended Offer by Barclays de Zotte Wedd Limited and Merrill Lynch International on behalf of Avon Energy Partners PLC (Incorporated in England, number 3194917) for the issued share capital of Midlands Electricity plc

Barclays de Zotte Wedd Limited ("BZW") and Merrill Lynch International ("Merrill Lynch") announce on behalf of Avon Energy Partners PLC ("Avon Energy") that, by means of a formal offer document (the "Offer Document") dated and despatched on 13 May 1996, BZW and Merrill Lynch are making an offer (the "Offer") on behalf of Avon Energy to acquire all the shares in Midlands Electricity plc ("MEB") in issue on 13 May 1996, other than those which Avon Energy already holds or has agreed to acquire, or allotted or issued prior to the date on which the Offer closes (or such earlier date, not being earlier than the date on which the Offer becomes unconditional as to acceptances, or, if later, the first closing date of the Offer, as Avon Energy may determine ("MEB Share"). The full terms and conditions of the Offer (including details of how the Offer may be accepted) are set out in the Offer Document.

A person who accepts the Offer will receive 420p in cash. In addition, if the Offer becomes unconditional in all respects, MEB will pay a Special Dividend of 20p (net) to shareholders on the register as at the close of business on the business day immediately preceding the day on which the Offer becomes unconditional. The Special Dividend will be paid at the same time as the first payment of consideration to accepting MEB shareholders under the Offer.

MEB shareholders (other than certain overseas shareholders) may elect to receive loan notes to be issued by Avon Energy ("Loan Notes") in lieu of some or all of the cash consideration to which they would otherwise be entitled under the Offer on the basis of £1 nominal of Loan Notes for every £1 of cash under the Offer. The maximum amount of Loan Notes to be issued to MEB shareholders who elect for the Loan Note Alternative under the Offer will be £225 million. If Loan Note elections are received in excess of that amount, individual elections will be scaled back in proportion to the amount of Loan Notes for which elections are made. Up to a further £25 million of Loan Notes may be issued to MEB shareholders whose shares are acquired by Avon Energy under the compulsory acquisition provisions of the Companies Act 1985.

No Loan Notes will be issued unless, by the time the Offer becomes or is declared wholly unconditional, elections have been received for at least £10 million nominal of Loan Notes. If insufficient elections are received, MEB shareholders who elect for the Loan Note Alternative will instead receive cash in accordance with the terms of the Offer.

The Offer is, by means of this advertisement, extended to all persons to whom the Offer Document may not be despatched who hold, or who are entitled to have allotted to them, MEB Shares. Such persons are informed that copies of the Offer Document and Forms of Acceptance are available for collection from Lloyd's Bank Registrars, Austin House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 3SL.

The Offer will initially be open for acceptance until 3.00 pm on 3 June 1996. The Offer is not being made, directly or indirectly, in or into the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan and neither the Offer Document nor the Form of Acceptance is being mailed or otherwise distributed or sent in or into the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan.

This advertisement is not being published or otherwise distributed or sent in, into or from the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan. All persons reading this advertisement (including custodians, trustees and nominees) who would, or otherwise intend to, forward this advertisement, the Offer Document or any related documents must not distribute or send them in, into or from the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan and doing so may render invalid any purported acceptance of the Offer.

This advertisement is published on behalf of Avon Energy and has been approved by BZW and Merrill Lynch, for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986. The Directors of Avon Energy accept responsibility for the information contained in this advertisement. To the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

14 May 1996

THE TIMES ENLIGHTENED INFORMATION SERVICE

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Shares slip in lacklustre trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES						
556	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
557	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
558	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
559	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
560	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
561	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
562	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
563	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
564	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
565	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
BANKS						
566	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
567	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
568	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
569	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
570	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
571	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
572	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
573	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
574	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
575	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST						
576	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
577	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
578	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
579	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
580	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
581	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
582	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
583	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
584	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
585	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT						
586	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
587	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
588	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
589	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
590	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
591	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
592	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
593	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
594	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
595	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
BUILDING MATERIALS						
596	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
597	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
598	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
599	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
600	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
601	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
602	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
603	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
604	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
605	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
CHEMICALS						
606	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
607	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
608	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
609	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
610	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
611	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
612	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
613	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
614	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
615	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
DISTRIBUTORS						
616	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
617	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
618	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
619	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
620	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
621	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
622	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
623	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
624	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
625	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ENGINEERING						
626	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
627	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
628	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
629	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
630	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
631	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
632	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
633	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
634	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
635	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES						
636	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
637	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
638	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
639	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
640	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
641	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
642	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
643	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
644	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
645	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
FOOD MANUFACTURERS						
646	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
647	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
648	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
649	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
650	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
651	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
652	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
653	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
654	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
655	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
HOUSEHOLD GOODS						
656	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
657	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
658	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
659	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
660	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
661	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
662	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
663	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
664	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
665	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
INSURANCE						
666	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
667	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
668	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
669	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
670	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
671	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
672	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
673	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
674	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
675	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
INVESTMENT TRUSTS						
676	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
677	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
678	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
679	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
680	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
681	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
682	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
683	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
684	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
685	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
MEDIA						
686	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
687	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
688	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
689	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
690	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
691	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
692	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
693	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
694	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
695	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2

1996	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
696	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
697	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
698	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
699	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
700	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
701	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
702	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
703	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
704	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2
705	40	Alcan	52.0	+0.2	0.4	18.2

1996		Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
				(+/-)			
238	875	Union Carb	1770		5.1	20.5	
239	875	Union Carb	1770		5.1	20.5	
45	41	Investment Co	841		5.4	12.5	
46	41	Investment Co	841		5.4	12.5	
237	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
238	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
239	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
240	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
241	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
242	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
243	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
244	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
245	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
246	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
247	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
248	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
249	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
250	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
251	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
252	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
253	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
254	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
255	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
256	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
257	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
258	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
259	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
260	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
261	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
262	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
263	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
264	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
265	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
266	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
267	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
268	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
269	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
270	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
271	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
272	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
273	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
274	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
275	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
276	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
277	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
278	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
279	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
280	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
281	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
282	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
283	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
284	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
285	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
286	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
287	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
288	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
289	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
290	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
291	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
292	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
293	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
294	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
295	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
296	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
297	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
298	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
299	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
300	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
301	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
302	185	Union Carb	2474		2.5	10.1	
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Please contact: Yvonne Phillips or Jonathan Marsden for further information in relation to private practice vacancies in London, and Lisa Hicks in relation to in-house vacancies, on 0171-377 0510 (0171-376 4968 evenings/weekends) or write to them at: Zarak Macrae Brenner, 37-41 Bedford Row, London EC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-247 5174. E-mail: yvonne@zmb.co.uk

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Succession book opens

BETS ARE on a new book to be the new Lord Chief Justice after the sad news that Lord Taylor of Gosport is retiring because of cancer. The book, which is being written by Lord Justice Rose, the other Lord Justice, Rose has been a link with the Law Society when at Wadhurst College he lectured to a group of lawyers - Master Mearns - Lord Taylor's successor.



LAW

● COACHING WITNESSES 39
● LAW REPORT 41

Gary Slapper asks why inquest law results in so few 'lack of care' verdicts

Neglect and the causes of death

Uproar broke out in a Birmingham courtroom early last month when a verdict of "death by natural causes" was announced after the inquest into the death of 23-month-old Robert Benton. Relatives yelled "Farce!" at the jury who had apparently followed the coroner's advice in returning their verdict.

Robert had died after being shuttled between four hospitals in one day. One hospital was too busy to treat him. One did not have the facilities, and another had no bed.

In a list of inquest verdicts approved by the Home Office is one which classifies the death as having been "aggravated by lack of care". All but those closely associated with coronial law might expect such a verdict to be clearly apposite in cases such as Robert Benton's, but this area of law is fraught with difficulty. There are legal — if Wonderlandish — reasons why labelling a death as resulting from lack of care is regularly avoided in coroners' courts.

This oddity is becoming especially contentious at a time when an increasing number of annual deaths occur after patients have been lugged around the country in ambulances and helicopters as medical and hospital staff struggle with diminishing resources.

Last week the inquest into the death of a 15-year-old boy from the Midlands, James Hoccom, returned an open verdict. The boy died from a meningitis-related illness, having allegedly been refused lifesaving treatment at a cash-strapped hospital (its paediatric ward had been closed) and transferred after an agonising delay to another hospital.

Add to this the fact that last year more people (74 per cent) died in hospital or care institutions than in any other setting, and the scale of the potential problem becomes clearer.

Home Office figures released on April 19 show that of the 560,000 deaths in England and Wales last year, 186,598 were reported to coroners, meaning, in effect, that the cause of death appeared to be unnatural or violent. Of these, most were resolved by coroners after post-mortem examinations, but there were 22,700 inquests.

Though there were 9,000 verdicts of death through accident or misadventure, there are only 35 cases where "lack of care" or "self-neglect" was recorded as a cause of death. These two separate social categories are not distinguished in the figures.

How does inquest law result in so few "lack of care" verdicts when those familiar with death scenarios in prison and the health service estimate the true figure of deaths from want of care as ten times the legally recorded one?

The cardinal legal awkwardness of an inquest is that the coroner is under apparent pressure to countervailing pressures. On the one hand, case law says that he is bound to treat the inquest as a "fact-finding investigation and not a method of apportioning guilt". There are no parties, there is no indictment, there is no prosecution, there is no defence, there is no trial.

In one case, in 1982, the then Lord Chief Justice said that despite the difficulties that arise when feelings are running high and the spectators are emotionally involved, it should not be forgotten that the inquest is just "an inquisitorial process... the function of an inquest is to seek out and record as many of the facts concerning the death as the public interest requires".

On the other hand, there are legitimate verdicts, such as unlawful killing or lack of care, which imply wrongdoing on the part of some parties, although the verdict is not allowed to point the finger at any person or persons. Coroners are frequently involved in disputes with advocates when the latter wish to pursue lines of questioning with witnesses in order to explore the possibility of negligence, and the former want to curtail it as being proper in a civil court but inappropriate at an inquest.

As concern grows about deaths in police custody, in prison and in the National Health Service, and as more bereaved relatives and their lawyers seek to establish a "lack of care" verdict at inquests, the heavily wooded law on this point has been tidied by tree-fellers and, lately, trimmed with the precision of bonsai artistry.

The law now states that "lack of care" may properly be



Robert Benton died "by natural causes" after being shuttled between four hospitals



James Hoccom died after a hospital transfer

a breach of duty by some other person.

Similarly, as Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham ruled that: "Neglect in this context means a gross failure to provide adequate nourishment or liquid, or provide or procure basic medical attention or shelter or warmth for someone in a dependent position (because of youth, age, illness or incarceration) who cannot provide it for himself."

All sorts of deaths which would, in common speech, be attributable to lack of care have been classified simply as accidental, or deaths through natural causes. The lack of care verdict cannot be used to embrace any criticism of a prison or hospital regime in general, or the way in which the deceased had been generally looked after.

If a cause of death originates in a person — in the Benton case, Robert had an acute bronchial infection — then it seems no matter how atrocious the response to the crisis, the appropriate verdict will be "natural causes". Alarmingly, the growing number of ambulances arriving late, as well as absences of lifesaving equipment, will not bring the case within the "lack of care" scope.

In the Benton case, the coroner said: "We should not be pillorying surgeons for the actions they have taken in good faith as a result of their training and experience." That is undoubtedly so, but it is not a reason why "lack of care" should not describe the systemic fault in the health ser-

INNS AND OUTS

Succession book opens

BETS ARE on as to who will be the new Lord Chief Justice after the sad news that Lord Taylor of Gosforth is retiring because of cancer. The appointee may well be crucial when it comes to the Law Society's bid for advocacy rights for "employed" lawyers (in commerce, industry and government), including the Crown Prosecution Service.

Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, was almost alone among senior judges in backing advocacy rights for solicitors when the Government first proposed them in 1989. As for Lord Justice Rose, the other hot tip, his father was a local government lawyer: he was the town clerk at Morcambe. So he might well be sympathetic.

Lord Justice Rose has one other link with the Law Society: when at Wadham College, he lectured to — among others — Martin Mears. Lord Taylor, meanwhile, is

preparing to lead a judicial onslaught in the Lords on May 23 on Michael Howard's sentencing plans. He is no longer carrying out judicial functions and colleagues say he is likely to occupy himself with his chief love, music.

● Hamlin Slowe, the West End law firm, has announced it is setting up a new associat-



Howard: under attack

ed firm, Hamlin, to advise on the law of Scotland. Hamlin will operate from London and advise chiefly on Scottish property and commercial transactions.

Less equal?

THE Law Society's Equal Opportunities Award, sponsored by The Times, goes this year to the legal department of Kirklees Metropolitan Council. A slight hiccup arose when Martin Mears, the society's president, said he would not endorse it because he did not think any of the small number of entries merited it. The award will be presented by Roger Jones, chairman of the society's equal opportunities committee.

A fine mess

TONY HEATH, president of the Justices' Clerks' Society, has launched a bitter attack on the "shambles" in the

criminal justice system which permits £200 million in unpaid fines to be written off each year. The courts were hampered, he said, in fine enforcement because they have no access to information held by other agencies.

Many fines have to be treated as irrecoverable, he said, even though a government department knows the defaulter's whereabouts. Courts cannot even share information with the police so police could stop someone wanted for fine default in respect of previous offences, but allow them to go on their way.

● Eversheds, the national law firm, has taken a full page in the legal press to announce its 24 new partners — all men. A spokeswoman said the picture was distorted because the ten partners that joined recently as a result of the merger with Watsons & Morse were all men. Among the associate solicitors, however, there were a much higher number of women who were potential partners.

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Confessions of a troublemaker

The Bar lost its exclusive rights of audience in the High Court a decade ago. This was hardly a giant step for mankind, or even a dream come true, but it was one small step in the right direction: the College of Judges had decided that solicitors should be allowed to represent a client in "formal or unopposed hearings".

No one disputes that the legal profession needs specialists to do specialist work, but back in the mid-1980s, it seemed wrong that, as a solicitor and someone who had drafted seven lines of script for a statement at the end of a libel action, I could not read those words in the High Court and that my client had to pay an extra £150 to have a barrister do it.

The story starts with my agreeing to act as London agent for Sir Cyril Smith, then Liberal MP for Rochdale. He had been sued by 25 Labour MPs because on Radio Trent he had suggested their conduct was treasonable when they had voted against the Government on the early day motion to send out the task force to recapture the Falkland Islands in 1982. It was eventually agreed that Sir Cyril would make it quite clear that he had never meant to accuse the MPs of actual treason.

The crunch came when I had to tell him it would cost a further £150 to get the statement read in open court by a barrister because, as a solicitor, I was not allowed to appear in the High Court. I asked him whether he would like me to try to obtain a right of audience to read the statement rather than spend £150 on a barrister. He readily agreed.

When I appeared before Mr Justice Leonard to seek leave to read my seven lines of script, he clearly thought I was deranged or a troublemaker, perhaps both. With patience and politeness he explained that the Bar had exclusive rights of audience in the High Court and that if I wanted to challenge this, I would have to brief a barrister to argue my and my client's case before him in open court. I promptly told him this would be done. With a degree of disbelief, he then said he would need an *amicus curiae* (another barrister) to assist the court in its deliberations. Without hesitation I said this would be done.

Not surprisingly, the application was thrown out at the first instance. But in the Court of Appeal, Lord Donaldson, while turning down the application, promised that the whole matter would be referred to the College of Judges because there was some merit in what was being sought. Six months later the judges came forward with their minor relaxation of the rules.

With help from the Law Society and the press, what became known as "Bar wars" had started. The Chairman of the Bar ingeniously but unsuccessfully tried to defuse the situation

by shunting the issue to the Marre Committee. But this group, with the barristers dissenting, concluded that solicitors' rights of audience should be extended. Then, with the white-hot heat of Thatcherism at its strongest, the Lord Chancellor produced his Green Paper on the legal profession.

The dam finally burst with the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990. Since then the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education and Conduct has done its level best to deter solicitors from gaining full rights of audience. First, a solicitor must obtain a certificate of eligibility — demonstrate that he or she has completed 20 to 25 appearances (not ten-minute directions but half-day hearings) before being eligible to sit an "evidence and procedure" exam. Only when this has been passed can the solicitor participate in an advocacy training course. This three-stage process costs more than £2,300. For young solicitors in the City, who do not normally appear in magistrates' or county courts, getting a certificate of eligibility can pose a real problem.

Coupled with the advisory committee's steadfast resistance to Crown Prosecution Service solicitors being given rights of audience in Crown courts and employed solicitors being able to exercise rights in their specialised fields, it is not surprising that there are now only 388 solicitor advocates; 89 being able to appear in all courts, 216 with rights in the higher criminal courts and only 83 with rights to appear in civil cases in the High Court.

The fear, a decade ago, that relaxation of the Bar's exclusive rights of audience in the High Court would lead to a fusion of the profession has faded. Indeed, the Bar has gone from strength to strength. Over the past ten years, the number of barristers has increased from 5,500 to 8,500.

This proves that the legal system will always need horses for courses and that barristers should be grateful to solicitors for keeping clients off their backs while they prepare cases and that they must learn to be more flexible and less stuffy in their arrangements with solicitors and the public.

That achieved, the Bar need fear nothing from solicitors. It is simply not cost-effective for anyone not doing advocacy the whole time to spend hundreds of hours reading and researching cases and the latest developments in a specialist area of law.

If there are other benefits — such as, I would hope, a more streamlined, cost-conscious and flexible legal system with barristers going to see clients rather than the other way round — it will all have been worthwhile.

● The author is company solicitor to Times Newspapers, but also runs a small private practice for family and friends.



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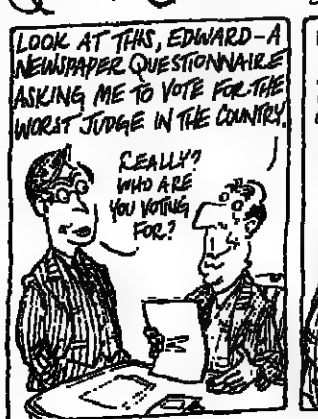
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Television's Rumpole toys with a witness, the kind of image that frightens potential witnesses such as the one pictured above being trained by Mark Solon



Birth of the superwitness

A key witness in a UK multimillion-pound law suit knew exactly what to expect in the courtroom — and was terrified. He'd seen enough American TV legal dramas to know that the cross-examining lawyer would stalk around the court, lean over the witness box to harangue him and probably jab a finger in his face for good measure. (All the while, the judge would bang his gavel impatiently, trying to call the court to order.)

Isn't that right? Well, not exactly, Mark Solon was able to reassure him. For a start, said the solicitor, lawyers in this country are not allowed to walk around the court room. Bond Solon, Mr Solon's company, runs training courses for would-be witnesses. Clients, he says, are usually relieved to learn that an appearance in court need not be as daunting as TV dramatists would have you believe.

Witness training is well established in the United States. The biggest American law firms even have mock courtrooms in their offices, into which they put mock juries and stage mock trials to test witnesses and the persuasiveness of particular lines of attack or defence before a case.

But in this country, such training is in its infancy. Yet some of the

Giving evidence in court can be terrifying. So why shouldn't witnesses be prepared by experts? Fiona Bawdon reports

biggest law firms — Herbert Smith, Clifford Chance, Ashurst Morris Crisp, Nabarro, among others — are already among Bond Solon's clients and other firms may well soon follow suit. Mr Solon, who is qualified as a solicitor in this country and in America, has for

Needless to say, the service does not come cheap — it costs almost £700

some time been training expert witnesses. But now he is offering training for lay witnesses — witnesses of fact, as they are called.

It is usually done one-to-one over three hours. Needless to say, it does not come cheap. Costing almost £700, it is likely to be restricted to "high-value" cases — as a general rule Mr Solon reckons a threshold of about £100,000 is realistic. During training, witness-

es are given advice about what to do ("If you don't understand, say so..."). Don't try to persuade the lawyer and what to wear.

The courtroom is not the place to make fashion statements, says Mr Solon ("parrot earrings are out") but you should still ring the changes: at one three-week trial, the usher ran a sweepstake on whether the defendant would ever change his T-shirt.

General advice is followed by a mock cross-examination, a trip to watch a trial in action, and a visit to the courtroom where the witness's case will be heard. Mr Solon emphasises that he has no knowledge of the actual case and "cross-examination" is based on fictional circumstances. Witness training is not about coaching on evidence but about building confidence, he says.

If it achieves this, it may be money well spent. According to Dr Chris Fife-Schaw of the department of psychology at Surrey University, research suggests that a confident witness is generally seen to be telling the truth. "Even though there may be no real relationship between confidence and accuracy,"

he says, "jurors seem to believe witnesses when they appear confident and express certainty about their evidence."

Mr Solon denies that there is anything suspect about this kind of training, or that it gives one side an unfair advantage. On the contrary,

Even experts on familiar ground can benefit from a little advice

it is in the interests of justice, he says. A witness who knows the ropes will save court time and can defuse common ploys used by barristers to undermine him.

A key part of the training is lifting the lid on cross-examination techniques. Mr Solon says: "Witnesses will come back afterwards and say 'I had two quick questions, one patronising look and three turning-aways'. If they know what

the barrister's up to, it neutralises it."

Michael Napier, the president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, agrees that witnesses need to be forewarned about what to expect, but considers that this should be done by the lawyers. "It is part of a doing a proper job in preparing a case," he says. "I would not want to employ outsiders to produce a 'superwitness' character. But equally, I can't see anything intrinsically objectionable in that."

Mr Solon insists that the pre-trial advice given by most firms to witnesses is of the "speak-up-and-don't-say-too-much" variety, and is, he says, "basically useless".

Ian Timlin, partner at Maxwell Bailey, was initially sceptical, but is now a convert after rave reviews from clients. Using an outside body means, he believes, that there is one thing fewer for the lawyers to worry about before a big case. His Chancery Lane firm has now used the training for eight witnesses in two big cases (both of which subsequently settled).

Even those who you would expect to be on familiar ground in the witness box can, Mr Solon says, benefit from a little help. "I remember one police officer we trained saying: 'I realise now, it's so simple. I just tell the truth'."

Reform in the public interest

John Laws argues for some extension of the courts' powers of judicial review

Most civil litigation involves only the rights and wrongs of a particular dispute between particular parties. But some cases — mostly in the field of judicial review — raise important questions which affect the public generally, or a significant section of it. Authorisations for the disposal of nuclear waste; government funding of the Pergau dam in Malaysia; the ratification of the Maastricht treaty — in these cases the public interest is concerned with the decision itself, rather than with ensuring that the law is a just, speedy and economical means of resolving disputes.

Justice, the all-party law reform group, and the Public Law Project set up a working party to examine the law and practice in public interest cases. It looked at two issues: first, how far a challenge may be brought against a public decision on purely public interest grounds, where the applicant has no private axe to grind; and second, how far the court should be prepared to receive views or evidence from a third party outside the litigation, with or without an axe to grind, whose contribution might help the court.

Such challenges and interventions present a significant departure from common-law convention that the judge only decides concrete disputes between those with a substantial interest. But with the huge growth of judicial review since the 1970s, the scope both for pure public interest challenges and for third-party interventions has visibly increased.

On the first issue, courts are increasingly willing to hear cases where the applicant does not have an interest but argues that the point should be litigated in the public interest. The Law Commission has recommended that such challenges be explicitly recognised as a distinct category of case: we endorse building on this.

In the second area we travelled newer ground. Historically there has been only limited scope for third parties to intervene in the

public interest. This is in contrast with other jurisdictions such as America where third parties are used far more. Individuals or organisations can obtain leave to put in a dossier about the merits of a particular public interest issue, such as the legality of abortion. The US Supreme Court, of course, has law-making functions in its role as the guardian of the Constitution, a role not paralleled by the powers and duties of our courts. But the working party concluded that important advantages would be gained if third parties with particular knowledge or expertise were allowed "a say" in public interest cases more widely than at present.

Our report, published today, suggests draft rules by which our recommendations could be implemented. We stress the importance of ensuring that any intervention should be court-driven, subject to the court's control and strict procedural rules: no one would have a right to intervene on public interest grounds.

The overall message is that there are some difficult public interest cases in which the court needs more help than it now gets. There are big constitutional questions about the extent to which judges should become involved in public policy. Generally they take a hands-off approach because Parliament must be where such matters are decided. But the courts play an important role, partly because of the growing impact of fundamental rights, partly because all kinds of decisions by public bodies are now subject to the rule of law. A willingness to accept more input from responsible outsiders to the litigation will enhance the court's duty to ensure public decisions are taken lawfully.

These proposals are modest and we stress the need for safeguards. The reform would, however, bring an important beneficial dimension to the workings of civil justice.

© Sir John Laws is a High Court judge who chaired the working party. A Matter of Public Interest (£5 from Justice and the PLP 0171-539 5100).



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1

VAT treatment of overpayments

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v British Telecommunications plc

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Millett and Mr Justice Tucker

[Judgment May 8]

British Telecommunications plc, provider of continuous telecommunications services, was not liable to account for value-added tax at the date of receipt of inadvertent overpayments received from its customers that were not returned but credited to their accounts on their next invoice. Such payments could not be treated as consideration received on account of future supplies and they became subject to output tax for the period for which the subsequent invoice was issued.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise from Mr Justice Dyson (*The Times* January 30, 1995; [1995] STC 239) who had upheld the decision of a VAT tribunal to allow BT's appeal against an assessment to VAT dated January 1992 in the sum of £2.6 million.

Mr Kenneth Parker, QC, for the commissioners; Mr David Milne, QC and Mr A. J. Shipwright for BT.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that the case concerned a question

of general importance both in the UK and in other EC member states on the liability to output tax of a taxable trader who made continuous supplies of goods or services and who invoiced and received payment from customers at periodic intervals in the course of a continuing contractual relationship with the customer.

Under the UK legislation the supplier had to account for output tax at the date when payment for the supply was received or at the date when he issued an invoice relating to the supply, whichever was the earlier. The question was concerned with the supplier's liability to output tax where the customer, in settling his present liability, mistakenly made an overpayment and the supplier instead of repaying the amount of the overpayment immediately, retained it and credited the customer with it when next invoicing him.

The commissioners contended that the overpayment had to be treated as a payment on account of future supplies with the result that the VAT was payable at the date of receipt of the overpayment.

BT issued invoices to its customers quarterly, accounting for output tax quarterly on the basis of the invoices issued in the relevant quarter. From time to time customers inadvertently made overpayments, the most common

mistake being double payment. Any such payment gave rise to an immediate liability on BT's part to make repayment to the customer. It did not do so. Having 20 million customers, the administrative inconvenience of making repayments would probably be out of all proportion to the individual sums involved. Unless a repayment was requested, BT credited a customer's running account with the amount received and took the amount of the overpayment into account when calculating the next quarter's invoice.

Although the individual amounts were small, the total sums were substantial. In a two-month period BT received no less than £17 million in overpayments from customers.

VAT was a European tax governed by the Sixth Council Directive 77/388/EEC (OJ 1977 L255/1). It was a tax on "the supply of goods or services effected for consideration... by a taxable person acting as such" (article 2). The taxable amount was "everything which constitutes the consideration which has been or is to be obtained by the supplier from the... customer" (article 1(A)).

The European Court of Justice cases established the need for a direct link between the service provided and the consideration for that service.

The basic tax point, that was to say the time at which output tax was chargeable, was by reference to the time when the goods were delivered or the services performed: see article 10(2) of the directive and section 4 of the Value Added Tax Act 1983.

However the tax point was brought forward when a payment was to be "made on account before the goods are delivered or the services are performed", when the tax was chargeable on receipt of the payment and on the amount received: article 10(2) and section 5(1) of the 1983 Act.

Regulation 23(1) of the Value Added Tax (General) Regulations (SI 1985 No 886) enacted a special regime for continuous supplies of services.

Accordingly, the question for decision was whether, where there was a continuous supply of services, the amount of an inadvertent overpayment by a customer of the amount for which he had been invoiced and which was retained by the supplier and credited to the customer on his next invoice, fell to be treated as a payment on account of a future liability. It was not paid on account of or in respect of future supplies.

The customer intended it in payment for past supplies and since it was not due when made, it was made for no consideration. Under English law the recipient was under an obligation to repay the amount of the overpayment immediately it was received.

The existence of that legal obligation was destructive of the commissioners' claim. If the money was repayable notwithstanding the continuation of the supply then it could not be a payment made on account of or in respect of the continuing supply.

The judge was correct in his view that such payments were not in respect of future services, being simply payments made by mistake. Nor was the payment received in respect of future supplies. It was not an appropriation by BT of the amount in question towards a customer's future liability. Under English law a creditor had no right, without the agreement of his debtor, to appropriate a payment to a debt unless the debt was presently due and payable. There was no debt due in respect of future supplies until the relevant invoice was issued.

Lord Justice Nourse delivered a concurring judgment and Mr Justice Tucker agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Mr A. Whitfield.

National Westminster Bank plc v Kitch

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Schiemann

[Judgment May 3]

An action by a bank against a customer for the recovery of an overdraft secured by a mortgage or charge was not a "mortgage action", Mr Justice Schiemann said.

The court of appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by the defendant, John Stephen Kitch, against the dismissal by Mr Justice Curtis on October 10, 1994 of the defendant's appeal from the decision of a district judge that the plaintiff, National Westminster Bank plc, was correct in issuing proceedings for the recovery of a debt secured by a mortgage in the Queen's Bench Division and entitled to obtain judgment in default of defence, without first seeking the leave of the court.

Mr Robert Deacon, who did not appear below, for the defendant; Mr Michael Lerege, QC and Mr Paul Goff for the bank.

LORD JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said that in holding that

an action for the recovery of an overdraft secured by a mortgage was not a "mortgage action", Mr Justice Schiemann said that the action was one in which there was a claim for payment of money and (ii) the payment of those moneys was secured by the mortgage. So, he submitted, the action fell neatly within the definition in Order 88, rule 1(a). Moreover, he pointed to *Midland Bank Ltd v Stamps* where the foregoing three facts were equally present.

The issue which Mr Justice Donaldson had to decide in the *Midland Bank* case was whether the provisions of Order 88 to retain the action in the Commercial Court. He held that he had.

He based his decision on *Practice Direction (High Court: Divisions)* ([1973] 1 WLR 627), made by the Lord Chancellor under section 57 of the Supreme Court of Judicature (Consolidation) Act 1925, and upon the exercise of his discretion under section 58 of that Act.

His Lordship accepted that whereas, if the decision of Mr Justice Curtis was right, Mr Justice Donaldson could have based his decision on a finding that the action was not a mortgage action at all.

He in fact said (at p638): "The bank is without doubt claiming

payment of moneys secured by a mortgage of real property and the action is thus a mortgage action to which... Order 88 applies."

His Lordship considered the phraseology of Order 88, rule 1 as capable of the construction contended for by both the bank and the defendant. While in no way criticising the result achieved by Mr Justice Donaldson in *Midland Bank*, his Lordship disagreed with the single sentence in that decision relied upon by the defendant and the editors of *The Supreme Court Practice*.

That sentence was not necessary to the judge's decision and it seemed clear that Mr Justice Donaldson was not treated to the careful analysis of the history of the rule, and the previous decisions concerning it, which had been placed before the court by the bank.

There seemed to be no reason in principle why, if a bank chose not to rely on a mortgage in an action, that action should be classified as a mortgage action.

Most cases based upon or concerning the operation of ordinary bank accounts had been brought in the Queen's Bench Division. In complex cases they would be heard in the Commercial Court.

The most appropriate place for the trial of ordinary bank claims was often the trial centre closest to the customer and bank branch and during the last few years a series of Mercantile Court lists had been established outside London under practices directions which presupposed that ordinary banking disputes would form part of the Queen's Bench lists.

In cases such as the present, the legal mortgages were charges to the trial of ordinary bank claims. His Lordship could see no policy reason for constraining an ambiguous rule in the way contended for by the defendant. So far as the money claim was concerned he deserved no more protection than any other debtor.

There might well be cases where there was a real doubt as to whether the bank was secured or not. In such cases his Lordship could see no disadvantage in the bank being allowed to sidestep any problems which might arise. So far as the possibility of being turned out of his house was concerned, the appellant still had all the protection which the law gave to a mortgagor who was at risk of action by the mortgagee.

His Lordship would dismiss the appeal and invite the editors of the *White Book* to reconsider their notes to Order 88, rules 2 and 6.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Simon Brown agreed.

Solicitors: Lucas & Co, Cowbridge; Osborne Clark, Bristol.

Lloyd's bylaw does not infringe EU competition law

Society of Lloyd's v

Clementson (No 2)

Before Mr Justice Cresswell

[Judgment May 7]

The Lloyd's Central Fund Bylaw neither affected trade between member states nor was it in any event anti-competitive and it did not infringe the competition provisions of article 85 of the EC Treaty.

Mr Justice Cresswell so held in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division when allowing the application of the Society of Lloyd's under paragraph 10 of Lloyd's Central Fund Bylaw (No 4 of 1986) for the return of sums paid out of central funds to John Stewart Clementson to assist him in meeting his liability in the insurance market.

Article 85 of the EC Treaty provides: "1. The following shall be prohibited as incompatible with the common market: all agreements between undertakings, decisions by associations of undertakings and concerted practices which may affect trade between member states and which have as their object or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition within the common market..."

"2. Any agreements or decisions prohibited pursuant to this article shall be automatically void."

Mr Jeremy Lever, QC and Mr Richard Slove, solicitor, for Mr Clementson; Mr Gordon Pollock, QC, Mr Paul Lasok, QC and Mr Richard Jacobs for Lloyd's.

MR JUSTICE CRESSWELL said that Mr Clementson was a name at Lloyd's. The Central Fund Bylaw empowered Lloyd's to recover from names moneys paid out of the central fund as a civil debt. Lloyd's sued Mr Clementson pursuant to paragraph 10 of the Central Fund Bylaw, as subsequently amended, in respect of sums applied out of the central fund to make good default by the defendant.

Mr Clementson, who was described by Lloyd's as the standard bearer for 2,500 names, contended that the central fund arrangements were void by reason of article 85(2) of the EC Treaty and accordingly Lloyd's claim under the central bylaw must fail.

The conduct of insurance business fell within the scope of article 85. Lloyd's contended that it was an association of undertakings, the undertakings being the names and the syndicates within Lloyd's.

Lloyd's admitted that its bylaws, its decisions to raise contributions

to the central fund and its decisions authorising sums to be withdrawn from the central fund were decisions of an association of undertakings within the meaning of article 85.

His Lordship said that the central fund arrangements, whether considered alone or in combination with the reinsurance provisions, had not had an influence, direct or indirect, actual or potential, on the pattern of trade between member states. If there was an influence it was not appreciable.

Nor did the central fund arrangements, and the reinsurance provisions, have as their object the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition within the common market. Nor did they, in the light of all the relevant facts and the legal and economic context, have as their effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition.

If there was an impact on competition it was not appreciable. To the extent that it was necessary to do so, his Lordship held that the rule of reason applied to the central fund arrangements. Lloyd's claim against Mr Clementson succeeded.

Solicitors: S. J. Berwin & Co, Freshfields.

Stopping vehicle on road with double white lines

McKenzie v Director of Public Prosecutions

Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Newman

[Judgment May 2]

The prohibition imposed on any vehicle stopping on any length of road along which centre double white lines were placed did not apply to a vehicle stopping - as long as necessary to enable a person to board or alight.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when allowing an appeal by case stated by Keith McKenzie from St Albans Crown Court (Judge Gosschalk and Justice) which had dismissed his appeal against conviction by St Albans Justices on April 12, 1995 of failing to conform with the indication given by a traffic sign namely a double white line sign contrary to section 36(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988. The case was remitted to the justices with a direction to acquit.

Mr Christopher Drew for Mr McKenzie; Mr Andrew Campbell-Titch for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE NEWMAN said that regulation 26(2)(a) of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (SI 1994 No

1519) imposed a prohibition on any vehicle stopping on any length of road along which centre double white lines were placed.

Regulation 26(3)(a) provided that nothing in (2)(a) should apply so as to prevent a vehicle stopping so long as might be necessary for any of the purposes outlined in subsections (b) to (f). The following qualification came at the end of subsection (f): "... if the vehicle could not be used for such a purpose without stopping on the length of road".

The issue for the court was whether the prosecution was correct to contend that the purpose Mr McKenzie was fulfilling on the road, namely picking up a taxi fare, was governed by the qualifying words.

Mr McKenzie argued that the qualifying words were confined to the purposes set out in (b) alone and not to (f) which covered the picking up or setting down of someone. The purposes in (b) took longer to fulfil.

His Lordship found it helpful to look at the content of the previous regulation, regulation 23 of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (SI 1981 No

859) where it was clear that the qualifying words applied only to subsection (b).

There had been one substantive amendment in the 1994 Regulations and the draftsman had consequently carried out structural alterations. But there was no basis for contending that there had been a second amendment causing subsections (b) and (f) to be embraced by those qualifying words when they had not hitherto been.

In his Lordship's judgment, unless there were strong indications Parliament had intended the amendment of the type relied on by the prosecution, he concluded that the meaning was clear.

As to layout itself, his Lordship said that in principle would be cautious in placing much weight on the layout. What could be gained from what the draftsman had done was that the true meaning could be reflected in the way that the layout had changed.

LORD JUSTICE PILL expressed the hope that layouts could be adopted when drafting enactments to avoid the difficulties that faced the court.

Solicitors: Lee Davies & Co, Harlow; CPS, St Albans.

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For further information please call Nicky Rutherford-Jones or Emma Hopkins on 0171-405 6062 (0171-350 0682 or 0181-540 2381 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyer, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. E-mail nicky@qdrec.demon.co.uk

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THE TIMES GOOD

The price of a university place

Students entering university this autumn are likely to graduate owing several thousand pounds to their bank and to the Student Loan Company. The cost of student life has never been greater. More and more school-leavers are considering deferring their course to work for a year or more to build up a study fund.

Those who wait will have the added advantage of knowing the outcome of a major review of higher education set up by the Government with Labour's backing under the chairmanship of Sir Ron Dearing, Chancellor of Nottingham University.

Set up after protests from students and vice-chancellors at the hardship and cutbacks experienced under the funding system, the review is expected to recommend a change to the student loan so that graduates have much longer to repay the money and their repayments are linked to earnings.

The National Union of Students earlier this year dropped its historical demand for grants to be restored to their 1979 level in favour of a campaign for a fairer loans system. Douglas Trainer, president of the NUS, says: "People are investing for the future by going to university and the years of hardship and difficulty should be a means to an end."

NUS research indicates that average student expenditure for 1995-96 will be £5,150 in London and £4,145 outside London, for a 38-week academic year. This leaves a shortfall of £1,571 in London and £1,248 elsewhere if a student re-

David Charter on funding and how universities are adapting to a new kind of student

ceives the full maintenance grant plus maximum loan.

Nearly 40 per cent of students considered themselves "in hardship" in the NUS's *Values for Money* survey in 1994-95. One in four had considered dropping out of their course because of financial pressures and half thought their money problems had an adverse effect on their academic work. About 30 per cent work in term-time to supplement their funds.

Despite all the publicity about hardship, demand for places still seems to be buoyant. One of Sir Ron's main considerations will be the future size of the university system, which presently caters for more than 1.6 million students, 6 per cent up on last year.

Full-time student numbers are capped while the review is being conducted, but nevertheless the profile of the national student body continues to change.

The majority of students are mature students, those aged 21 or over when they enrol. The proportion of female students also continues to rise and this year there were more women than men at universities for the first time.

Universities, some faster than

others, are adapting their services along with the changing profile of students. One key consideration for the growing number of mature students are the playgroup facilities available at or near the university. There is no central register of college childcare although the information should be available in the prospectus or on demand.

Attitudes towards on-site provision vary. Southampton's 24-place nursery for children from six months to five years old is oversubscribed. The university also runs a playgroup three times a week and summer holiday schemes for children of students and staff up to the age of 14.

"It is an important factor for the non-traditional students and for postgraduate overseas students with families," says Joyce Lewis, a Southampton spokeswoman.

Nottingham Trent University has 50 crèche places for children aged 18 months to five years on each of its two sites, 40 for students and ten for staff. Students pay on a means-tested scale of £2 to £7 per half-day session.

Jennifer Spencer, a spokeswoman, says: "Places are offered on the basis of need. There is no doubt it is a major factor in the choice of Nottingham Trent for local students."

Humbly Grove is one modern university which does not provide its own nursery. Sheila Cook, a spokeswoman, says: "It is something we have looked at but we came to the conclusion that the local area is pretty well served for nurseries and crèches."



Mature students and women are now in the majority in higher education and universities have to adapt to this changing profile



Tara Barker: taking exams

How the Class of 93 are getting on

TARA BARKER is the first of the Class of 93, three students who started courses in that year who are being tracked by *The Times*, to reach her university finals. Her exams at Bristol University start next week.

Tara, 35, a single mother with a son, decided to study politics as a mature student to enhance her career prospects. She was freelancing as a journalist for a local radio station before her return to studying and wanted to stay on to do postgraduate research. She is now keeping her options open.

"I do not really know what direction I want to go in. I will take my exams and take it from there," she says. "I want to be involved in politics in some way, whether through study or within an organisation." Tara's savings helped her to avoid a bank overdraft but the money she put by for university has

Three students describe how they have fared since taking up studying

gone and she has a £3,000 loan to pay off. Her course lived up to expectations and has been "extremely enjoyable". If she does decide to go back to work she may take an evening course to keep up her studies.

CLAIRE FIELDSEND, the youngest of the Class of 93, is spending the third year of her four-year French and Italian degree course abroad. She is presently working as a language assistant at two schools near Lyons in France. Her fears about coming from a state school to study at Cambridge have gone and she is looking forward to her final year at Robinson College. Claire, 21, spent last summer

working to help to fund her year in France.

Her course also enabled her to spend the previous summer improving her Italian at the British Institute in Florence.

RUSSELL BATTEN has found the full-time job he hoped for after abandoning his studies. A year ago he told *The Times* he thought he was taking a risk by leaving higher education. Today he is certain he made the best decision.

Russell, now 21, left halfway through a two-year hotel and catering diploma course he started in 1993 at the University of Brighton, saying it failed to live up to his expectations or its promotional

material. He landed a job as a customer-services representative with a mail order company last September after several months temping, mostly office work.

"I think I did the wrong course. I really hated it. It was the worst year of my life," he says.

Russell, formerly at Trinity School, an independent school in Croydon, found the course inflexible and the hotel and leisure industry less than glamorous when experienced on a placement during his course. "I would rather be in a job with a wage packet at the end of the month. I would not knock anyone for going to university; it is a magic idea but it has got to be right for the individual."

He has enrolled on an NVQ level two course in customer services through his company.



Claire Fieldsend: in Lyons

DAVID CHARTER

Student loans and grants

THIS September sees the end of a three-year period in which grants have been reduced and student loans increased accordingly. The Government has now reached its target of a balance between the two.

Few observers expect this to be the end of the process since both Labour and the Conservatives see graduates as the one realistic source of the funding necessary to preserve quality and resume expansion in higher education. But there will at last be a breathing space.

Only full-time higher education students qualify automatically for a grant, although Labour is promising to spread the benefits to part-time students and to a wider range of courses. At present, students taking other courses have to compete for scarce discretionary awards administered by local authorities.

A complicated formula, based on parents' earnings, is used to determine how much grant students receive. A "residual" income below £16,050 entitles a son or daughter to a full grant, but above £32,000, grants will be paid only if there is more than one student in the family.

Grants are administered by local education authorities and are paid in termly instalments. Government loans require an application to the Student Loans Company, which is based in Glasgow.

Student loans are not means-tested, although repayment is deferred if a graduate is earning less than 85 per cent of national average earnings. This threshold, currently set at £1,267 a month, is revised annually on along with repayment rates, which are tied to the retail prices index. For 1995-96, the interest rate was 3.5 per cent. From September, this will fall to 2.7 per cent.

Grant levels 1996-97	
London.....	£2,105
Elsewhere.....	£1,710
Living at home.....	£1,400
Student loans 1996-97	
Full year	
London.....	£2,035
Elsewhere.....	£1,645
Living at home.....	£1,260
Final year	
London.....	£1,485
Elsewhere.....	£1,200
Living at home.....	£920

The Department for Education and Employment publishes a booklet detailing the regulations for grants and loans. Copies can be ordered by phone on 0171 510 0150, by fax on 0171 510 0196 or by post from the DFE, Publications Centre, PO Box 6927, London E3 3NZ.

There is money to be made by going to a Buckingham Palace garden party or Wimbledon for the tennis

The best jobs for the summer and where to find them

A holiday job is a must for the modern student. But that does not mean you cannot do something enjoyable. Working in a delicatessen came top of the league in our straw poll of summer jobs; market research by phone came bottom. For one student, summer work led to garden parties at Buckingham Palace.

What tips can students pass on to newcomers? If you are telephone selling (rating 4/10), take the jobs that offer basic pay plus commission, not commission only. Helping behind a bar, one of the most common jobs (rating 6/10), is good fun when it is busy. Looking after children can sometimes have the added bonus of going abroad on the family holiday, but ratings vary according to the children's behaviour.

Jenny Picton, a second-year undergraduate in European History at the University of East Anglia, rated her job in a delicatessen (£3 an hour) 10/10 because it was varied, the hours were flexible and she got delicious leftovers. Working in a factory packing Y-fronts for Marks & Spencer, she earned £87 for a 36 to 41-hour week. She would do it again if the pay was better, "but they hate students in factories".

Helen Lovett, studying English and French at UEA, worked as a care assistant at a home for disabled war veterans in Richmond, Surrey. Shifts varied and could be up to 12 hours a day. The pay was £5.01 an hour, more at week-

ends. "It was exhausting and I now know everything there is to know about incontinence. I didn't get any war stories; the residents wanted to talk far more about me. The staff were good fun and supportive, and the friendly environment made up for the demanding work." She hopes to work there again this summer. 6/10.

Charlie Lucas, studying drama at Birmingham University, worked as an usherette in a London theatre. She wrote to 25 theatres and one, the Garrick, replied. She was offered a job after an interview with the stage manager. It paid £18 a night, and she worked at two matinees a week. The next year she went in person to 12 theatres; the Globe remembered her previous application and gave her a job in the kiosk selling sweets, programmes and tapes. The pay was about £20 a night, but she would not do it again. "I couldn't go out in the evenings, the work was boring and usherettes are badly treated. It's a very competitive world." 7/10.

James Curtis, a history undergraduate at UEA, did surveys for MRM Distribution in Grantham. He was given a map area to cover with a batch of survey sheets and paid 35p a sheet if he completed a batch in one week, 25p if he took longer. "Good points: you can choose your working hours, good money. Bad points: disheavering, very tiring, awful if it rains." He would do the job again. 8/10.

David Lain, an undergraduate in politics at UEA, got his

job telephone selling hotel packages to local businesses through an advertisement in the local paper in Croydon. The good points: £4 an hour, four hours a day maximum. The bad points: really hard work, very pushy bosses who go on about "team spirit". David would not do the job again. 4/10.

Wimbledon fortnight offers a variety of hotly contested jobs. Simon Johnson, reading French and management at Royal Holloway College, worked in the museum shop from 9am to 8.30pm for £6 an hour. "Thousands of people coming in and out all day made the time go quickly. In two weeks I earned £300 and never got bored." 9/10.

Jessie Middleton, reading psychology, anthropology and politics at Newcastle University, worked for the catering firm Town and Country doing silver service waitressing in the Lawn Tennis Association sponsors tent. It paid £4 an hour, for up to 12 hours a day starting at 8.30am, plus generous bonuses. "It's a smart place to work. Good fun, despite the revolting purple striped uniform and being on your feet all day." 8/10. She went on to work at Buckingham Palace garden parties.

Nicholas Crossley, a second-year civil engineering undergraduate at Imperial College London, spent a month making sandwiches in the kitchen of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. "I made



A summer or part-time job is a must for many students

so many I ended up dreaming about them." He earned £400, the hours were from 5am until 6pm. 5/10.

Joshua Thompson-Jones, studying humanities at Nottingham Trent University, was taken on for two weeks for the Harrods January sales and stayed a month. Doing

Centres that can help students to pay their way

THE BOOM in student numbers has been matched by a mushrooming of campus job centres offering term-time employment to undergraduates. David Charter writes.

Computer-literate students and language experts may find their expertise helps them to more than a good degree. Some of the best rates of pay for students are at present being offered for setting up Internet web-sites and providing instant translation.

Almost 40 job agencies are up and running and another 40 are planned. Two of the notable exceptions are Oxford and Cambridge universities. However, many students remain unaware of the service. A conference of job shop administrators later this month will debate ways to give the centres a higher profile among students.

David Putalano, controller of Unistaff at Cardiff, says: "There are 14,000 students in Cardiff and only 1,000 on my books. Many students who have been here for three years do not know that we exist."

As yet there is no nationally agreed code of practice, but similar policies are shared by the different centres.

Unistaff was one of the first to be established. All the wages for students are sent direct to Unistaff which pays everyone £3 an hour. This means that the menial jobs are rewarded with a decent level of pay. Students are not allowed to work more than 15 hours a week during term time.

Mr Putalano says: "It means everyone gets £45 each

at the end of the week so they do not have to lose National Insurance or tax."

The office, which is non-profit-making, pays out about £12,000 a month to students, three quarters of whom work for the university and a quarter for companies in Cardiff. On-site jobs range from cleaning to clerical work and dish-washing to driving. Off-site, much of the work is in the city's department stores.

The take-up is seasonal. "At the moment they are doing exams and I have got a folder full of work which no one wants to do," Mr Putalano says.

Tempus, at Sheffield University, has a minimum wage of £3.20 an hour which employers must agree in, but otherwise students are paid the rate for the job. No one is allowed to work more than 15 hours a week.

Tempus acts as a bridge between employers with part-time vacancies and students looking for temporary work in term time, and for longer periods in the vacation. Bernard Kingston, at Sheffield, says: "About 800 students have registered their skills out of the 16,000 in Sheffield."

The job agency at Sussex University, Brighton, insists on a minimum of £3.15 an hour, coupled with agreements that the student must spend at least 40 hours a week on study and not more than 150 hours a term in a part-time job. The best rate earned by Sussex students was for simultaneous translation from a European language into English at £9.12 an hour.

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Students expect to be po

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The people at Student Marketing want to get inside your head. If you are a student you want to know what four you are up to in the early hours of every morning. They want to know everything about you.

They know that 42.3 per cent of students would vote Labour at the next election. 3 per cent drink one to ten units of alcohol each week and 14 per cent have tried speed. But if?

What newspaper do students read? The Student Marketing. The Times is read by more students than any other newspaper. It is the Guardian and The Sun.

They had 40 per cent of students buy a newspaper every day but they are beginning to turn to the Internet for their information and entertainment. An estimate of one of students use the Internet at least once a week and 21 per cent use it three or more times a week.

John Handley, 23, a history undergraduate at King's College London says: "Every day I'm in touch with friends in other parts of the country. I suppose I do waste a lot of time on it as well."

much of the information on this page has

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UNIVERSITY GUIDE

...this term, next term, long term  BARCLAYS

'It's a cool, groovy happening place'

Student stereotypes are crumbling. Every student in Britain might be addicted to morning television, but in other respects student lifestyles vary widely depending on the location of their university.

In Birmingham, for example, students appear to live almost entirely on lasagne and chocolate mousse. They spend £40 a month at the supermarket — preferably Sainsbury's — and although they share food with flatmates, they never share alcohol.

Manchester students spend a lot more money on pizzas and love nothing better than curling up in front of the television with a take-away. Their counterparts in London spend £100 a month on food, lavishing money on off-licences and like shopping on their own.

These insights are gleaned from research by Student Marketing, which tries to pinpoint what makes campuses around Britain so different. Students the length and breadth of the UK have been vociferously defending the merits of their adopted towns and cities.

"London is definitely the best place to be," says Becky Walden, 18, who is studying Hispanic studies at University College London. "I've always lived in London and there was no way I was going to leave because there's so much happening every night. My first year has been brilliant because there's no work."

"London? No way! Manchester was so glamorous," says Charlotte Somers, 24, who graduated in English and drama last June. "Socially and culturally there is so much to do in the centre of Manchester. It can't be beaten."

Barry Cooke, 21, studying commerce at Birmingham University,

In Birmingham it is chocolate mousse, in Bradford it is the rent — Chris Hadley on the attractions of different cities

cannot bring himself to agree. "The location and the set-up are perfect — it's a great campus in beautiful countryside and yet with all the benefits of city life just a mile away. It can't be bettered for nightlife."

So who is right? The capital does seem to be very popular with its 250,000 students. More than 70 per cent stay in London to find work, compared with a national average of 27 per cent who stay on in their university town. Students in London differ greatly in one great respect — there is no central campus so students tend to participate in the same activities as the working population. There are also more students than in any other city; other Londoners would probably say too many.

Leicester Square's pubs and clubs came out on top in the evening entertainment stakes and students are happy to spend £25 on a decent club night out. Then again, surveys show that 58 per cent of London students manage to spend more money than they have.

Most students live in northwest

and north London, with Camden still proving a popular haunt. Becky Walden lives in the 11or Evans hall of residence in Camden. She says: "It's such a cool, groovy happening place. I go to Camden market every weekend and it's totally mad. The Underworld in Camden has a student night called Bubblicious. People dress up in felt hats — it's incredibly funky."

I sometimes regret not going to a campus university. I suppose it's just one big happy family there, but London is great."

Many students prefer a campus atmosphere, but even then they often move out into private accommodation in their second year. Adopted Mancunians and Brummies can certainly afford to be happy about the large differences in rent across Britain. The average rent for student digs in Birmingham is one of the lowest at £32 a week, although Bradford has the best deals on accommodation overall with an average rent of only £23 a week. Manchester compares

favourably at £35. It comes as no surprise that London prices are by far the most expensive at £65. Manchester's 50,000 students are concentrated around Fallowfield. It has a high burglary rate because thieves know when the students are on holiday. While Charlotte Somers was a student, Manchester was frequently referred to as Gunchester. "It added to the glamour of the place in a sick way. Manchester was this place where Indie started with Oasis and there was Hacienda and loads of great innovative theatre."

"It hit a downward spiral with all the drugs and guns, but I think it's starting to pick up again and the club scene is unrivalled." Charlotte lived in hall for the first year and says it was cheap but the food was disgusting, but in her second year she moved first to Rusholme, a popular student area, and then to the notorious Moss Side, where she lived in a "real dive" and even watched a siege with armed police at the house over the road.

Birmingham does not sound quite as racy, but Barry Cooke will not hear a word against it. "Most of the students live around Selly Oak. The comedy scene in Birmingham is really fresh, but everything else is as well — whatever music you want you can find any night of the week."

Location is obviously important, and students do appear to fall in love with their adopted town or city, but some facts unite students everywhere.

They have little money; they spend more than they have; they amass debt; they live in terror of finals and yet still manage to have the best three years of their lives, wherever they are.



The social and nightlife can play a large part in attracting students to different universities

TOMORROW
The quality debate in higher education
Top universities in 14 different subjects
How the dons' transfer market will tip the ratings

Students expect to be poor, and to have a good time

Today's students expect to end up in debt: the only question is how much. As finals approach, the combination of overdraft and three student loans has left me owing almost £5,000.

My financial position is worse than most because I have no income other than the grant and loans. Anyone thinking of a university career should be under no illusion: money will be tight.

The final year is the worst because both the grant and student loan are reduced on the assumption that you will be working by the end of the summer term. I will be because it is the only way I will be able to afford the postgraduate course I need to launch my career.

Not that it will be anything new. I well remember the summer of 1995, not for the endless hours of sunshine, but for 110-hour working weeks trying to reduce my debts. By the end of my second year at the University of the West of England I was £1,500 overdrawn, not including the student loans.

In many ways, my debt is self-induced: I tend to eat well, enjoy a drink and have as yet been unable to master the art of staying in. I accept money worries as part of student life.

Things will not get easier in the future. Grants which have been reduced over the past two years are still going down, while student loans are being increased. Hence the pressure increases on students (and

Debt is a way of life



Andrew England

long-suffering parents) to fund their own studies.

But it is not all gloom and doom. Expectations are now so low that many freshers will not suffer as much as they had anticipated. Simon Underhill, who is in the second year of an advertising degree at Bournemouth University, says: "I was dreading it financially but it turned out to be a lot easier, just by doing simple things such as budgeting food, and picking your nights out instead of going out on whim."

However, such discipline

took time to develop. "I didn't expect the expense of the first term — I spent about £300 in a couple of weeks but it was worth every penny because I met so many people."

Now that Simon has adjusted to student life he feels he is in control of his finances. "Debt isn't a problem. It just depends on what you are prepared to give up. I spent my summer working for a marquee company — but I earned loads of money and the job itself was an experience."

After leaving art school in Cardiff after four years, Andy Trotman is an old hand at student survival: "You have to expect debt. A student life is a social life; make do but enjoy yourself."

At the end of his course, he expected to be about £6,000 in debt but finished being £2,000 overdrawn. He says: "Debt didn't worry me — if it came to a crunch I could get a job and pay it off."

The lesson is that most students' perception of debt will change. Its significance does not always lie in its size, but in the worry it causes. Being overdrawn is not a crime. There is always the opportunity of some sort of work, however menial, to alleviate the financial burden.

Thousands will be plunged into debt. Simply be careful and accept that sacrifices will have to be made.

ANDREW ENGLAND

A simple question of market research

Student Marketing is interested in everything you do

The people at Student Marketing want to get inside your head. If you are a student they want to know what food you eat, how much you spend on beer and what you are up to in the early hours of Saturday morning. They want to know everything about you.

Perhaps they already know too much. They know that 423 per cent of students would vote Labour at the next election, 32 per cent drink one to ten units of alcohol each week and 14 per cent have tried speed. Scary, isn't it?

What newspaper do students read the most? According to the latest research by Student Marketing, The Times is read by more students than any other newspaper. In second place is The Guardian and The Sun comes last.

In fact, 40 per cent of students buy a newspaper every day but they are beginning to turn to the Internet for their information, education and entertainment. An estimated 40 per cent of students use the Internet at least once a week, and 21 per cent use it three times a week or more.

John Handelaar, 23, a history undergraduate at King's College London says: "Everyone is turning to the Net, they'd be mad not to. Universities provide it for free and you can keep in touch with friends in other countries by e-mail or dig out some research for your next essay. I suppose I do waste a lot of time on it as well."

Much of the information on this page has

come from Student Marketing, which is based in London and Edinburgh. It is gathering information on students because big companies and their advertising agents are beginning to sit up and take note of students, and so they should. Students constitute a crucial 38 per cent of 18-to-24 year olds. In the past decade, the student market has expanded by 75 per cent.

Jan Levy, 26, graduated from Edinburgh University four years ago. He was one of three entrepreneurs who founded the hugely successful Student Pages, a large pink book packed with money-off vouchers for students in their local area. In 1996 Student Pages was published in 18 editions and Mr Levy and his partners launched Student Marketing.

"Our mission," Mr Levy says, "is for Student Pages and Student Marketing to become the gatekeepers to the market. We are providing a service to both students and companies who want to 'get 'em young' and develop brand loyalty."

Kirsten Williamson, 25, the managing director of Student Marketing, says: "We send fieldworkers out in campuses all over Britain. We now employ about 50 to 60 students part-time to gain snapshots of student life — what they think, how they spend money. We can get a snapshot report together in less than 24 hours."

CHRIS HADLEY

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■ VISUAL ART 1

The Victoria and Albert Museum leads a nationwide celebration of William Morris...

■ VISUAL ART 2

... whose centenary year is marked by a reassessment of his interior design...

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VISUAL ART 3

... that includes a survey of his highly influential furniture innovations...

■ VISUAL ART 4

... and even takes in his revitalisation of the ancient craft of stained glass illustration

Richard Cork on William Morris at the V&A; plus other centenary shows dedicated to a giant of arts and crafts

The man who traded in the best of taste

Mention William Morris's name today, and most people think immediately of wallpaper festooned with flowers, leaves and undulating branches. The sheer familiarity of Morris's designs often makes them seem all too predictable. Since 1940, when Sanderson's took over his wallpaper printing blocks, their burgeoning popularity has overshadowed Morris's other multifarious activities. So the major survey of his life and work at the Victoria and Albert Museum, marking the centenary of Morris's death, is a welcome attempt to redress the balance.

This supremely energetic, adaptable and resourceful Victorian never stopped extending his range. Walking through the 500 exhibits assembled in this labyrinthine show is like encountering the achievements not of one man, but a prodigy forever pushing out in a bewildering variety of directions.

Morris's love affair with the Middle Ages began early. As a voice-over informs us at the start of the show, he never forgot visiting Canterbury Cathedral with his father: "he thought the gates of Heaven had been opened to him". The sound of that commentary, repeated remorselessly on a loop, is inescapable as we explore the first section of the show. But if we tire of hearing those reverential words, they do at least drum into us the fervency of young Morris's religious faith.

Going up to Oxford in 1853, he intended to embark on a career in the Church and even to found a monastic order. Student life, especially the stimulus of new friends with like-minded enthusiasms, soon persuaded him to pursue a secular career as an architect. But he never lost his devotion to medieval cathedrals. Ruskin's writings fortified his commitment to a pre-Renaissance aesthetic, and after leaving Oxford Morris made sure that he joined the office of G.E. Street, the most prominent exponent of neo-Gothic architecture.

However steadfast his medieval interests may have been, Morris was surprisingly uncertain about how best to channel them. A restless man, whose appetite for versatility grew all the time, he could fairly be described as a workaholic. Abandoning Street after less than a year, Morris immersed himself in art with his friend Edward Burne-

Jones. The two men shared rooms in London as well as an ardent admiration for the Pre-Raphaelites, whose headlong rejection of academic principles amounted to a revolution.

The fruit of Morris's visits to drawing classes can be seen at the V&A, and they reveal his limitations as an artist. The diligent drapery studies, which show an accelerating competence, provided him with a source of reference for design projects throughout his career. But they lack true vitality, and only in an 1857 drawing of Jane Burden does Morris inject his careful draughtsmanship with strong emotion.

It turned out to be a momentous year. He had met Burden at Oxford, while collaborating

He died worn out by his search for the holy grail of beauty?

with Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Burne-Jones on an elaborate mural scheme for the Oxford Union debating hall. His drawing of Jane conveys the fervency of his response to a young woman whose large, liquid eyes, swelling lips and dark, luxuriant tresses bewitched him. The portrait is not, however, as openly erotic as the bigger and more sensual drawing Rossetti made of her in the same year. With hindsight, his passion for the woman who became Morris's wife is burningly apparent even at this early stage.

For the moment, Morris revelled in Burden's faithful presence. She posed for his sole surviving easel picture, a painstaking attempt to depict Iselt pining for Tristram in her chamber. The undone waist-belt clasped so tightly in her hands, combined with the little dog curled up in Tristram's place on the rumpled bed-sheets beyond, give the painting a sexual charge unique in Morris's work. But Iselt's languorous allure is tempered by melancholy. She looks downcast and frustrated, gazing at a bedroom mirror inscribed with the word *DOLOURS*. And the abundance of props included in this modest-size canvas give it a claustrophobic air.

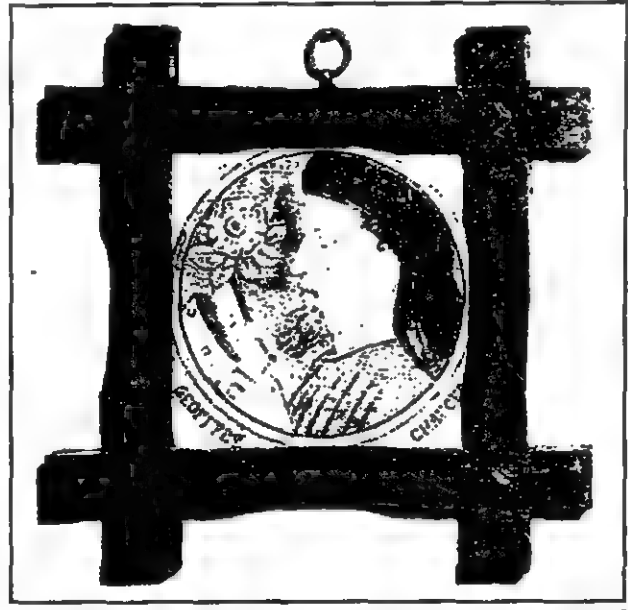
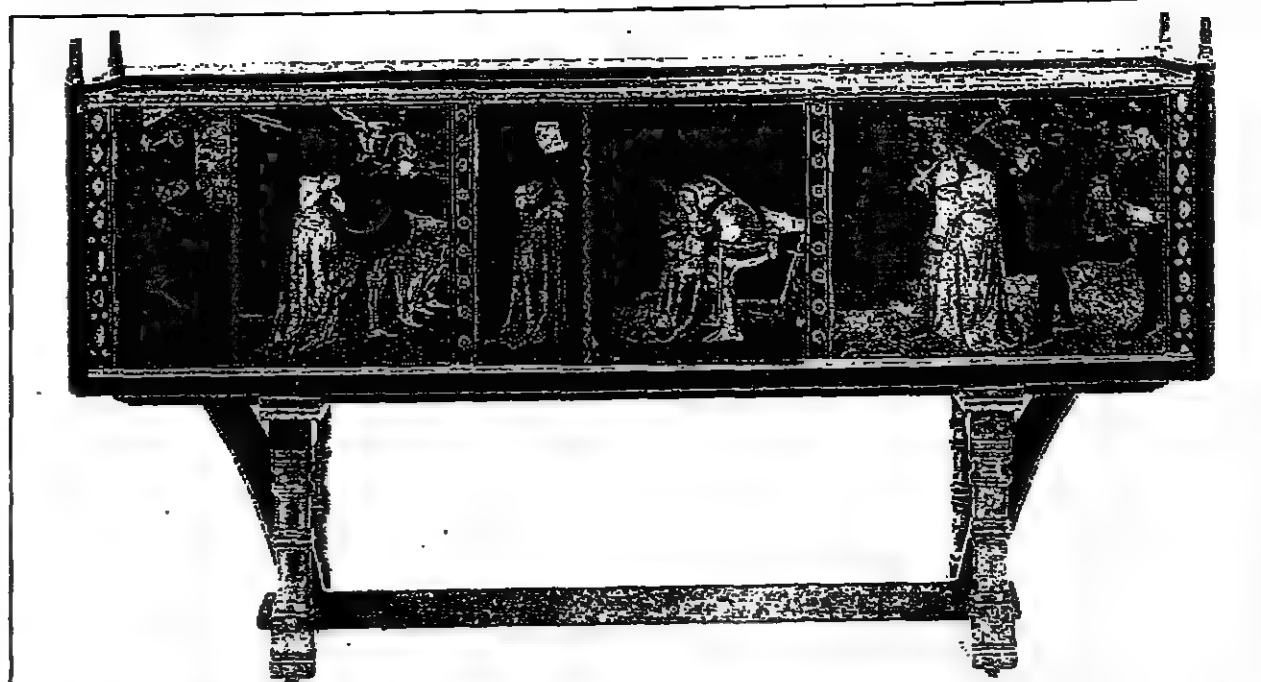
Morris was in danger of stifling the picture with his love of elaboration: his acute sense of strain helps to explain why he never became a painter. His friend Philip Webb remembered that after struggling with *La Belle Iselt* for months, Morris found himself "hating the brute". Henceforth he would direct his formidable energies towards applied art; and when Webb designed the Red House for the newly wed Jane and William in Bexleyheath, Morris concentrated on furnishings for the bridal home while Burne-Jones produced the festive wall-paintings.

The brotherly spirit of collaboration at the Red House encouraged Morris to plan his most far-reaching venture: the founding in 1861 of Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co. affectionately nicknamed "the Firm". Its seven partners included Burne-Jones, Rossetti, Webb and another distinguished painter, Ford Madox Brown. With such a pool of talent behind it, the Firm was assured of success at its very first commercial display — two stands crowded with objects and designs at the 1862 International Exhibition. They were positioned, aptly enough, in the Medieval Court.

Morris's devotion to an idealised vision of the Middle Ages was undiminished, and it united the stylistic diversity of the exhibits. Both he and his partners were driven by a determination to recapture a lost Arthurian realm, and Morris later declared that houses should be fit for the "noble creatures, tall, wide-shouldered, and well-built, with their bright eyes and well moulded features, those men full of courage, capacity and energy".

Morris's exalted description of his ideal clients fails to chime with the people who commissioned the major schemes undertaken by the Firm. St James's Palace and a new refreshment room for the South Kensington Museum were the grandest of its interiors. The Green Dining Room still exists at the V&A, and deserves to be visited as a coda to the exhibition.

Morris himself gradually came to realise that wealthy members of London society, whose houses he transformed with such vigour, were sadly removed from his noble fantasies. He once said he was "sick of ministering to the swinish luxury of the rich", and a visit to Iceland in 1871 ignited a political urge to work for a



"A prodigy forever pushing out in a bewildering variety of directions": (Clockwise from top) St George cabinet (1861-62); design for Hammersmith carpet (c.1880); tile with a portrait of Rossetti as Chaucer (1864); Acanthus wallpaper design (1874)

society imbued with the spiritual simplicity he found there. By this time, Morris had reluctantly come to accept that his wife and Rossetti were lovers. But their relationship left a void at the centre of his emotional life, and may well have impelled him to seek solace in excessive labour. The unremitting tasks carried out in his later years are exhausting to contemplate. While

presiding over the expansion of the Firm and its international renown, Morris somehow found time to write poetry, practise calligraphy, champion the conservation of ancient buildings, promote socialism, design and publish books and continue to produce assured designs for textiles, grand embroideries, hand-knotted carpets and, most sumptuously, tapestries.

No wonder he did not live to savour an equally productive old age. He died at the age of 62, worn out by his own ceaseless search for the holy grail of beauty in the home. If Morris's attachment to medievalism now seems stifling, his insistence on truth to materials would become a touchstone for the modern movement.

"Try to get the most out of your material," he urged art students in 1881, "but always in such a way as to honour it most." The innovators who transformed 20th-century British sculpture, from Epstein and Gill to Hepworth and Moore, acted on just such a belief.

William Morris at the Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 0J7 (1011-938 8500) until Sept 1

Did the patient seducer have his way?

John Russell Taylor on the fruits of Morris's attempt to revolutionise industry through craft — and vice versa

one in which everyone made everything for himself, or, at the very least, every small community was self-sufficient. But he realised that history could not roll back, and so concentrated as far as possible on alleviating the situation in which he found himself.

People could at least be persuaded to practise crafts for themselves, as amateurs. In late Victorian England they did so already, to an extraordinary degree. It was their taste which needed purifying rather than their interest provoking. They must be persuaded to throw away those hideous designs for Berlin woodwork, and instead follow nature in embroidery or tapestry. If they had to do potwork (or pyrography, as it was more grandly called), then at least let it be well designed.

But encouraging the amateur was only part of Morris's plan. He also wanted the craftsman to be a professional. He or she should be a sort of all-round designer/maker, able to make a living selling what was made. Morris was sensible enough to know also that this would inevitably entail selling to a rich minority audience. Morris did not like that, but he could live with it —

for the moment, until, partly through the agency of art, things turned the way he wanted them to turn.

It was not even necessarily bad to shake hands with the devil of industry. What craftsman designed might not be made with their own hands, but it was made according to their instructions with little loss of quality and considerably more affordability.

At the Crafts Council a wallpaper by Walter Crane is hung next to one by Lewis F. Day. What is the difference? That by Crane looks a bit more elaborate, but otherwise choice might well be a matter of personal taste. But the Crane, being hand-blocked, cost more than 30 shillings a yard, while the Day, machine printed, cost more like 3d a yard.

Contrary to popular assumption, Morris did not fail to acknowledge the basic arithmetic. He even went so far as to go into business — and, on a small scale, industrial manufacture — with Morris and Co, best known subsequently for its wallpapers and fabrics. His personal passion for hand-illumination did not blind him to the values and

possibilities of the printing-press, and he threw himself into using traditional methods to make fine books at his own Kelmscott Press. He hoped, obviously, that the craft spirit would gradually take over industry, bringing about a revolution from the inside.

And has it? This is where the show's argument (for, make no mistake, this is an argumentative show) becomes most intriguing. As is pointed out, in Morris's day there was art, and there was industry. Caught somewhere in between were the designers (who might or not be makers to some extent) and the specialists in applied arts. Morris hoped for an amelioration by emphasising the applicability of all the arts.

What has actually happened is that through modern technology industry can easily outstrip craftsman in terms of cheapness and wide distribution. Ironically, the implied price war has pushed the crafts in the opposite direction, nearer to the fine arts.

These days a craftsman is paid like an artist, and his work is bought, not because it is the cheapest receptacle for jam or daffodils, but because it delights the aesthetic senses.

Morris wanted the craftsman to be respected, but possibly not in precisely these terms.

Today, he might well be more at home with some of the more frankly commercial industrial products of Swedish glassmakers. They are clearly artistic as well as being in touch with practical realities.

But the most astounding thing is to see how little jolt there is when craft objects a century apart are juxtaposed. Not because the new pieces are not sufficiently modern, but because the spirit that urges Alan Caiger-Smith or Janice Tchalenko to make pots, or Danny Lane to make his stacked glass chair, is too obviously related to (descended from?) that which informs Philip Webb and, indeed, Morris himself. Craft has not taken over the world, but it is alive and well and firmly in possession of it.

William Morris Revisited is at the Crafts Council Gallery, 44 Pentonville Road, London N1 0J7 (1228 7800) until June 30

WILLIAM MORRIS



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THE TIMES TUESDAY MAY 14 1996

Mike Leigh's new Secrets and Lies one of a strong line-up of British films in competition at Cannes

First show

It may be raining, but the outlook is bright for Geoff Brown at the Cannes Film Festival

The most popular of the first...

After the...

The Van...

Blame it on...

THEATRE

Resurrection

Of Samuel Johnson's masterpieces...

Malcolm R...

populace and into debt. His mixture vulnerability, but Rennie captures the role of John...

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What makes...

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FILM 1

Mike Leigh's new *Secrets and Lies* is one of a strong line-up of British films in competition at Cannes



FILM 2

... while I Shot Andy Warhol, a powerful American film about the guru of modern art, is a Cannes treat

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE

Resurrection is a gauche look at the life of the 18th-century "noble savage", Francis Barber



POP

Angélique Kidjo finds herself surrounded by enthusiastic fans on the stage of the Festival Hall

First shoots of a vintage crop

It may be raining, but the outlook is bright for Geoff Brown at the Cannes Film Festival

The most poignant sight of the first day at Cannes was of a delegate sheltering her head from the rain with a copy of *Variety*, largest in size of all the trade dailies published during the festival. What advertisement, I wondered, was seeping into her brain? A Tarantino spoof called *Plump Fiction*, perhaps? Or *Pierrot* by the French director of the same name? Or maybe the desperately unappealing action thriller whose advertising copy read: "Burt Reynolds is Raven. For years the government paid him to kill. Now he's self-employed."

The Cannes Film Festival market bombards you with so much hype and hoopla like this that some years it is possible to forget there is an official festival going on. But not this time. Hollywood glamour may be in relatively short supply on the Croisette, but star directors are plentiful. The competition section alone features new films from Bernardo Bertolucci, Robert Altman, Aki Kaurismäki and Chen Kaige, plus more contentious notables such as David Cronenberg and Michael Cimino.

There is also enough British talent on display to merit a visit from the National Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley. Last night, while some of us were tucked up in bed, she stayed up until the wee hours widening her knowledge of hard drugs by watching *Trainspotting*.

Doubtless she was told of the positive reaction to Mike Leigh's competition film *Secrets and Lies*. After dousing us with misery in *Naked*, Leigh lightens the load, brightening his tale of family relations and an adopted daughter with wry humour and some knockabout caricatures. Not that he's forgotten his new maturity: indeed, in his urge to be serious he drags his feet sometimes and gives his characters a scrutiny they cannot always support.

Hortense, a black beauti-



After the unremitting misery of *Naked*, Mike Leigh loosens up quite a lot with *Secrets and Lies*, one of the films in competition at Cannes

cian, sets the plot in motion by striving to locate her natural mother. Her quest ends, surprisingly, with Brenda Blethyn's Cynthia, nervy and needy and enduring a dead end life. Further comment should wait until the film opens in Britain in a fortnight: suffice to say that it moves, amuses and annoys in roughly equal measure.

Britain's other competition hopeful, Stephen Frears's adaptation of Roddy Doyle's novel *The Van*, fared less well with audiences. People came prepared to laugh, but left feeling bludgeoned. "Jesus," Colin Meaney shrieks as chip fat spurts into his face (he is partnering a friend in a burger war during 1990, World Cup year). He seems to shriek "Jesus" every few seconds. Frears severely miscalculates the amount of boisterousness a film can take; and any thoughtful moments in Doyle's script get trampled by the noise. What with this and *Mary Reilly*, it is not Frears's year.

Peter Greenaway, on the other hand, has staged a modest revival in *The Pillow Book*, filmed largely in Japan and Hong Kong. Gone are the multi-layered tableaux that disfigure *The Baby of Macon*; instead, Greenaway reopens the technological treasure trove he used in *Prospero's Books* and overlays images in different sizes. This may sound like a session with Windows '95, but no computer could ever have devised the eccentric script about a Japanese fashion model who covers the body of her lovers with calligraphy. Spontaneity and warmth remain absent from Greenaway's universe, but the film demands attention as an exquisite visual conundrum.

There is also much to gaze at in Jude, Michael Winterbottom's adaptation of Hardy's novel *Jude the Obscure*, made in association with BBC Films. Winterbottom, the hot young British director of the moment, may not quite have snuffed out the scent of a BBC costume drama, but he cer-

tainly knows how to present bleak landscapes and constant rain falling on grey stone walls. The script telescopes events too much, which does not help us feel the full agony of stonemason Jude (Christopher Eccleston) and his illicit union with cousin Sue (Kate Winslet). Perhaps, perversely, this is just as well: if Hardy's stark novel was captured whole on screen, there might be no audience at all.

Switching continents, we come to *Kansas City*. This is Robert Altman's valentine to his birthplace, although aside from the large quantities of jazz played on screen you never feel much personal emotion coursing through the slick artificial images. The time is 1934: the story concerns the kidnapping of a politician's wife by a telegraph operator who over-identifies with spunky movie heroines such as Jean Harlow and Joan Crawford. Equipped with a squawky voice and grimaces

galore, Jennifer Jason Leigh gives a thoroughly tiresome performance; what fun there is comes from Miranda Richardson as her captive socialite, befuddled by drugs.

Luckily other American directors seem to be in fine fettle, and capture the sense of place sadly missing from *Kansas City*. In *Lone Star* John Sayles explores the ethnic mix of the Rio Grande in a story that starts its winding journey with the discovery of human bones on an abandoned rifle range. Not every twist convinces, but there is enough humour and compassion to make this film special.

The same goes for *Trees Lounge*, the endearing directorial debut of Steve Buscemi, everyone's favourite actor in American independent movies. The film grew out of Buscemi imagining what his life would be like if he had never left his childhood home of Valley Stream, Long Island. By this reckoning he would be a bar fly, buzzing round a dodgy town, annoying friends

and family. Buscemi, of course, takes this central role, although he knows enough about ensemble acting to give ample space to the rest of his marvellous cast.

But the most powerful American film to date has been *I Shot Andy Warhol*, by the Canadian-born Mary Harron. Some of its power comes directly from the main character, Valerie Solanas, a fringe member of the Warhol entourage who unleashed her bile and paranoia by shooting the guru of modern art in 1968. Lili Taylor gives a remarkable performance as the devisor of *Scum* (Society for Cutting Up Men); although the film's full flavour derives from the confrontation between her nihilism and the stoned-out vacuity of the Warhol crowd.

Jared Harris's Warhol impersonation is uncanny: you feel the man has come back to life. But the award for resuscitation must really go to Harron, who revives an entire era and art scene with amused respect.

Rowdy tunes require rhinos

WOULD he roll out *Bag's Groove* one more time? You might as well ask whether you will hear *Pomp and Circumstance* at the Last Night of the Proms. So, at the end of his first set, the dapper Milt Jackson duly tapped the first tumbling phrases of his most famous tune.

In his many years with the Modern Jazz Quartet, the vibraphone master has played that skeletal blues riff thousands of times. It is a measure of his melodic and rhythmic agility that the piece never sounds quite the same.

Critics frequently make the point that he has been at his most effective within the baroque confines of the MJQ. I am not sure that assessment has carried as much weight over the past decade as the quartet's set-pieces grew ever more sedate.

What is still true is that Jackson works hardest with another forceful personality to prod him along. Miles Davis and Thelonious Monk are the two most obvious examples to come to mind.

Mike LeDonne, the pianist in Jackson's current band, carefully avoids upstaging the star of the show. That inevita-

Milt Jackson
Rhythmic, NI

bly means there is less of the structural contrast and interplay that distinguishes Jackson's best work. But when, as on this evening, he unleashes such a prolific string of solos, only a curmudgeon would find cause for complaint.

Inspiration flagged only on the over-familiar *In A Sentimental Mood* and the tame Latin beat of *This Masquerade*. Otherwise Jackson assembled a cleverly arranged sequence of pieces — including Benny Golson's *Whisper Not* and an up-dated treatment of Monk's *Off Minor* — which lifted the performance far above the level of a blowing session.

Mickey Roker, a replacement for Connie Kay in the MJQ, was the ideal drummer for this repertoire: subtle on ballads and a charging rhinoceros on the rowdy up-tempo numbers.

CLIVE DAVIS

Still in the swing

Clark Terry
Wignore Hall

NOW 75, trumpeter Clark Terry forged his career in the big bands of everyone from Charlie Barnet and Lionel Hampton to Quincy Jones, Count Basie and Duke Ellington. "One of the all-time jazz greats" was how John Dankworth introduced him to a packed Wignore Hall, for a concert in which they were joined by two players from a younger generation: bassist Alec Dankworth and pianist David Newton.

Terry shows few signs of age or fatigue, but his maturity shines through even the most familiar material. It takes considerable skill to inject life into such old warhorses as *Squeeze Me*, *Perdido* and *God Bless the Child*, but uncompromising professionalism concealed in one of the most charmingly urbane stage manners in jazz has always been Terry's hallmark.

His style, while firmly rooted in the relaxed but massive swing of the big-band era, frequently draws on the edgier, more complex articulation and wit associated with bebop, and the quartet's opener, the fleet *Haig and Haig*, neatly

demonstrated both strands of his talent. John Dankworth, too, given a rare chance to shine in an informal, straightforward jazz context, showed what a subtle and affecting alto player he is.

The next number, *I Don't Want to Be Kissed*, showcased another aspect of Terry's playing: his influence — particularly through his pioneering use of flugelhorn — on the sound of Miles Davis. On both this and a typically warm, sweetly plaintive *The Nearness of You*, Terry emphasised just how much of a debt is owed to him by today's flugelhorn and muted-trumpet balladeers.

Dankworth and Newton provided crisp, lucid support throughout, and John Dankworth lent an easy-going elegance to the proceedings on clarinet and soprano as well as alto. But this was Clark Terry's night — and he deservedly raised the roof.

CHRIS PARKER

Blame it on the doctor

THEATRE
Resurrection
Bush

One of Samuel Johnson's masterpieces, *Rasselas*, involved an Abyssinian prince who left his native Eden to explore a world that proceeded to disillusion and disappoint him. But that was nothing beside the misfortune that eventually overtook the black man Johnson knew best. Francis Barber was born a slave in Jamaica, became Johnson's amanuensis, inherited a small fortune from him, yet managed to end up in a hospital for the destitute. Being a Noble Savage in the 18th century, or a *Rasselas* in Merry England, could be a sad, sordid business.

So Maureen Lawrence suggests in the two-hander that Paines Plough is bringing to the Bush. I am happy to believe her, but have to say that her play is pretty gauche, both in form and content. In the first half Malcolm Rennie's Johnson is on his deathbed in London — amplified wheezing indicating from offstage that the end is high — and in the second Tyrone Huggins's Barber is similarly placed in Stafford. Each time, I found myself wishing the poor fellow would buck up and snuff it.

Not without awkwardness the actors change ages, and even characters, as they bob about in time. Barber meets Johnson as a boy, runs off to sea, returns, marries a white woman and has children. *Rasselas* the great doctor in his last illness, and obeys his last wishes by moving to the supposed security of Lichfield, where he is smothered by the



Malcolm Rennie as Johnson; Tyrone Huggins as Barber

populace and falls seriously into debt. Huggins brings a nice mixture of pride and vulnerability to this journey; but Rennie copes less well with the role of Johnson.

The astringent if slovenly doctor comes across as a kindly blob, a sanctimonious sofite who wobbles about the stage saying things like "This is the greatest democracy in the world, yet there are beggars on every street". The somewhat mixed impression Johnson makes is, however, in keeping with his author's attitude to him. Yes, he is capable of reducing an Oxford college to uproar by suggesting a toast to slave rebellion in the West Indies. No, he is not the champion of equality he thinks he is.

What makes *Resurrection* so maddening is that it judges the liberalism of 200 years ago the standards of Hampstead today. If a modern employer behaved so possessively to a modern Barber, or sively to an inheritance conditional on his settling in the sticks, we would find him

horribly arrogant. But Johnson's affection for his servant and companion was clearly genuine, his generosity to him considerable, his desire to ensure his safety not unreasonable given the temper of the time. Isn't it smug and presumptuous of a late-20th-century playwright to point an accusing finger at him?

For that's what happens at the end of Penny Ciniwicz's production. Johnson, says the dying Barber, was a good man, but his "conscience money was mine by right, not favour". Nothing, he adds, can compensate him for what has been done to him and his. And he climbs into his makeshift coffin, declaring that Anglo-Saxon civilisation will have to make "a proper reckoning" if it takes a thousand years. In other words, Johnson should have felt contrite, and you and I should atone for our inherited guilt. It is a pretty dismal conclusion to what might have been a much more enlightening evening.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

POP: African diva Angélique Kidjo and country's Steve Earle

IT IS unusual to see security staff at a concert assisting the audience to mount an invasion of the stage. But given the open-hearted warmth and irresistible rhythmic tug of Angélique Kidjo's bravura performance on Sunday, it seemed only natural to find the singer, along with her seven-piece band and a wildly athletic, voodoo-spirit dancer, vastly outnumbered on stage at the end by enthusiastic fans, dancing and singing along.

Kidjo, from Benin in West Africa, but now resident in Paris, has become one of the leading torch-bearers of the new Afro-pop, a fluid style that bridges the divide between the propulsive rhythmic complexities of African music and the electric instrumentation of Western rock.

While the vogue for "world music" has faded since the 1980s, the success of the Senegalese star Youssou N'Dour and Kidjo herself, with her international hit *Agolo*, has kept the profile of such music higher than it has ever been, particularly in Europe.

Kidjo's set echoed the pioneering work of Nigerian crossover star Fela Kuti, whose song *Hounghani* she performed, while her guitarist, Olivier Ajavon, paid skillful homage to Carlos Santana, with a handful of fluent, high-voltage solos.

But with her full-blooded voice and commanding stage presence, Kidjo stamped her own mark of authority on a set that ranged from the gently paced *Fifa*, a heartfelt plea for peace and harmony, to the disco groove of *Shango*.

With her severe features and flat-topped haircut, she looked like a benign and much smaller version of Grace Jones, and Kidjo was nothing if not a slave to the rhythm. "I wonder if the sound of the drums still has its power," she sang after drummer David Fall and percussionist David Mirandon had produced a mighty display of polyrhythmic ingenuity as a prelude to *The Sound of the Drums*. The answer was self-evident.

DAVID SINCLAIR

A slave to the rhythm

Angélique Kidjo
Festival Hall

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DAVID SINCLAIR

Jest a bad ol' boy at heart

Steve Earle
Empire, W12

of songs by the Rolling Stones, Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan.

In mid-show Earle did a solo spot beginning with the two most intense tracks on his new album: first *South Nashville Blues*, performed in such a Robert Johnson style that you could almost feel the hellhounds on his trail, then *CCKMP* (Cocaine Cannot Kill My Pain), which detailed the prolonged drugs habit which he only managed to lose during a drugs-related prison sentence two years ago.

When Earle sang songs like this, or the harrowing *Ellis Unit One*, it became clear that he is truly a "country outlaw" in the Johnny Cash and David

Allan Coe tradition, rather than a heart-throb in the clean-cut mould of the new Nashville heroes. This was also made clear in his ceaseless quips, which covered everything from Garth Brooks and hallucinogenic mushrooms to his six marriages ("Lou-Anne and I decided to get married again, cos our divorce didn't work out").

During the second encore the show came full circle when Earle and the Dukes were joined by the V-roys and a tin-whistle player for a rousing version of *Johnny Come Late*, which he originally recorded with The Pogues and which was inspired by a night on the tiles in Camden Town.

Earle no longer has those kind of nights, but he still seems fired by that spirit.

ANN SCANLON

Win tickets for Euro 96



TODAY, *The Times* offers you the chance to win tickets to the biggest sporting event in Britain for 30 years — the Euro 96 European soccer championships.

We have six pairs of tickets from the FA to give away — a pair for each of England's matches at Wembley against Switzerland, Scotland and Holland as well as a pair of tickets for the Wembley quarter-final, semi-final and final matches. It is your chance to see our boys in action as they take on Europe's best.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to be part of the biggest footballing event since World Cup fever gripped the nation in 1966 simply collect 10 differently numbered tokens from the 12 which will be printed in *The Times* until Saturday May 25. Token two appears below. Then attach the tokens to the official entry form which will appear with a competition question and address next Saturday. The closing date for receipt of entries is first post Wednesday May 29.

The winners will be the first six names selected at random from all correct answers received with 10 tokens attached. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply. The prizes available are tickets provided by the Football Association and may not be resold under any circumstances.

For credit or debit card purchases of tickets for individual games in the tournament call the FA ticket hotline number 099 099 1996. You can also purchase tickets for individual games by using an official ticket application form available from your nearest branch of Midland Bank.



League sets its sights on union's heartlands

By Christopher Irvine

NOT content with showing rugby union how to run with the ball, rugby league is venturing further beyond its tight scrum of clubs in the North into union heartlands. Cardiff and Dublin are in line to join London and Paris in the Super League as early as next year. Barcelona and Milan are other targets.

The possibility of the new South Wales club, presently playing at Aberavon in the second division, being "fast-tracked" into the Super League for 1997 is backed by a seven-figure sum and a switch to Cardiff Arms Park. A Dublin franchise also has business support and Lansdowne Road would be an obvious venue.

However, raising a competitive team in Dublin might prove more difficult. Although



Ireland reached the final of the Emerging Nations' World Cup last year, the side is nowhere near the calibre required. Substantial and costly team building would be needed in a country where the sport is in its infancy.

Wales is old, yet unconquered, territory for rugby league. South Wales have made an encouraging start in the second division and instant promotion to the Super League would entice a strong Welsh contingent home. The meeting of Sheffield Eagles and St Helens at the Arms Park on June 5 is an opportunity to gauge public interest.

An expansion of the Super League from 12 to as many as 16 teams in future years, which club chairmen will discuss today, could also include an East Yorkshire

club, provided that Hull and Hull Kingston Rovers can see past traditional enmity towards a merged future.

Jacques Fouroux, the Paris Saint-Germain chairman and former France rugby union coach, wants to establish a Barcelona side, based on players from the Perpignan region in southwest France, 100 miles north. More ambitiously still, a Milan side also springs from Fouroux's vision.

Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League chairman, said yesterday: "I believe in meaningful expansion, not fanciful expansion. New clubs must be backed by credible business plans, with quality players and stadiums, with the ability to draw on support."

The first division, too, is to be enlarged, with the introduction of two leading French sides next season, who will also compete in a play-off competition with the top two first division teams at the end of this season. Lindsay also announced a "plate" competition for losing clubs in the early rounds of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup outside the Super League and a double-header final at Wembley next May. The Regal Trophy is a confirmed casualty of the move to summer.

The world club championship has virtually been written off for this year because of the dispute in Australia, which yesterday embroiled Gary Connolly and Jason Robinson, of Wigan. Both players have long-term contracts with the Australian Rugby League (ARL), which will "withdraw" them from England's side in the European championship next month in a fit-for-fat exchange over a threatened refusal by some Super League players to represent Australia in the forthcoming series against New Zealand.

"If they [the ARL] try to bribe them not to play for their country, it will be interesting to see what a judge in this country would say," Lindsay said. "We're going to select them and the ARL will have to do its worst."

GREAT BRITAIN TOUR (international dates): September 28: Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby); October 1: Fiji (Suva); October 11: New Zealand (Perth); October 18: New Zealand (Auckland); October 25: New Zealand (Christchurch).

Davies gets round to self-congratulation

Patricia Davies on the British golfer whose resolve earned her a third major title

Laura Davies is not given to self-promoting hyperbole, but she did allow herself a generous pat on the back after her triumph in the McDonald's LPGA Championship late on Sunday. "That's the best round of golf I've ever played in the final round of a major tournament," she said.

Mark Fulcher, who caddies for Davies every year at the Dupont Country Club in Delaware, went even further. "It's the finest round I've ever seen her play," he said.

Davies, 32, held her nerve on a windswept and waterlogged course to produce a final round of 70, one under par, which gave her a level-par total of 213 and left her one shot ahead of Julie Piers, who also broke par on a day when the average score was 76.1. Jane Crafter and Penny Hammel, who came home in 33, tied for third on 215.

On a course that she loves because it allows her to give full rein to her driver, Davies had 17 pars and one birdie in a remarkable display. However, it was not birdies that won Davies, 32, the third major title of her career — she had only five in the three rounds — so much as pars. She had 45 and Fulcher reckoned that no putt and no par was more important than the one from six feet that Davies holed for a five at the 9th early on Sunday morning, to complete her storm-disrupted second round.

Davies had to play only two holes — others had to play as many as 11, including Cairn Nilsmark, the first-round leader, who was so bewildered by the biting, swirling wind that she missed the cut — but she had the worst possible start, taking five at the 8th.

Stunned, Davies salvaged that par at the ninth and a breakfast of steak and eggs set her up for an afternoon of attrition. Kelly Robbins, the defending champion, was two under par and led by a shot from Hiroshi Kobayashi, of Japan, but Robbins knew that she needed a rest even before the championship began and slithered to a round of 79.

Kobayashi dropped shots at the first two holes and, when Crafter had a birdie two at the 5th, she was in the lead on her own at level par. She bogeyed the 9th, however, to share the lead with Davies. Kobayashi, Val Skinner, Shirley Furlong and Annika



Davies celebrates sinking her putt at the 16th to take the lead for the first time. Photograph: Roberto Borea

Sorenstam. It was anybody's championship and, at one stage on the second nine, Davies, an inveterate watcher of leaderboards, saw that there were 11 players within a shot of the lead.

It was Davies, though, who broke the deadlock at last, at the 16th, the par-five that she bogeyed last year to turn the championship in Robbins's favour. Then, Davies had a six-iron for her second shot; on Sunday, she needed a three-wood. It missed the green, but she pitched to 18 feet and holed to lead.

LEADING FINAL SCORES

United States unless stated
213: L. Davies (GB) 72, 71, 70, 214: J. L. Larson (USA) 72, 72, 70, 215: P. Hammel (USA) 72, 72, 71; J. Crafter (GB) 73, 68, 72, 216: J. Piers (GB) 71, 74, 71; J. Intisar (USA) 72, 73, 73, 217: S. Furlong (GB) 73, 73, 73, 218: M. Crafter (GB) 74, 74, 74, 219: M. Hammel (USA) 72, 74, 71; M. Larson (USA) 72, 74, 71; K. Albers (USA) 72, 71, 74, 219: L. Riggs (USA) 72, 72, 75, 75, 220: A. Nicholas (GB) 68, 75, 76, 220: S. Sorenstam (USA) 69, 71, 78.

she did and she holed all the par-saving four- and five-foot putts.

Davies reminded people that she won her US Open title on a Tuesday after numerous delays and problems with the weather and, having won the LPGA title twice in three years, she is moving up the list of major championship winners. Of contemporary players, only Patty Sheehan and Pat Bradley, with six, Betsy King and Amy Alcott, with five, and Hollis Stacy, with four, have won more majors than her.

It was the 43rd victory of her career and her thirteenth in the United States. The first prize of \$180,000 (about £115,000) moved her into second place on the money-list with \$46,941, behind Karrie Webb, of Australia.

IN BRIEF

Rusedski falls at the first hurdle

GREG RUSEDSKI bowed out in the first round of the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome yesterday. In a contest of two big servers, Rusedski was beaten 7-6, 6-3 by Goran Ivanisevic, of Croatia, the No 2 seed, who relied on his fierce forehand and the occasional touch shot to secure victory.

Rusedski, 22, who switched his citizenship from Canada in order to represent Great Britain in the Davis Cup, learnt yesterday that Britain's proposal to play their away tie against Ghana in July at Wimbledon instead of Accra had been turned down. David Lloyd, the Great Britain captain, had been roundly condemned in Ghana for opposing the trip because it would involve a long flight, injections and possible illness in the critical period between Wimbledon and the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

McMillan hopes

Boxing: Colin McMillan has his first important contest on the road back to the top when he challenges Jon Jo Irwin, the British featherweight champion from Doncaster, in Dagenham, tonight.

In 1992, McMillan was the most exciting boxer in the country, but, after he dislocated his shoulder defending his World Boxing Organisation title against Reuben Palacios, of Colombia, he was never able to recapture his form. McMillan believes that, if he can take the title from Irwin, it will be the first step towards a match with Naseem Hamed.

Davies dictates

Real tennis: Wayne Davies, the former world champion, scored a spectacular straight-sets victory over Paul Tabley, his fellow Australian, to win the BNB Resources British professional championship at Holyport, playing error-free tennis for much of the match. Davies now looks an even stronger favourite for the Laurent Perrier masters championship next week.

On shortlist

Equestrianism: William Fox-Pitt and Kristina Gifford, who had to miss Badminton, the main Olympic trial, two weeks ago, because of injury to their horses, are included on the shortlist for the British Olympic three-day event team subject to satisfactory further work with their horses, Cosmopolitan II and General Jack.

OLYMPIC SHORTLIST: E. Bailey (New Zealand); J. Dixon (New Zealand); W. Fox-Pitt (Great Britain); K. Gifford (Great Britain); C. Hambleton (USA); L. Jansson (Sweden); M. King (Great Britain); L. Lumsden (Great Britain); L. Maclean (Great Britain); G. Pennington (Great Britain); and J. Smith (Great Britain).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
The technique on this hand is obvious when you think about it. However, John Armstrong, my man in the North West, reports that two Lancashire county players missed the point.

Dealer North	Game all	IMPs
♠AQJ3 ♥8 ♦KJ4 ♣AKJ72		

Contract: Four Spades by South
Lead: Eight of hearts

East won the opening heart lead and returned a heart. The declarer at both tables won a diamond and discarded a diamond from dummy on the king of hearts, drew trumps and played clubs from the top. When West got in, he could play a diamond through dummy's KJ, enabling East to score two tricks there.

I hope you see the correct line. Declarer should cash two trumps, then the ace of clubs, then play a third trump to hand. Now, he plays a second round of clubs and, if West follows low, he puts in the jack. If East wins, he will be out of clubs and so will have to give South his tenth trick via a ruff and discard or by leading diamonds.

□ The biennial friendly international between England and Holland was played in Rotterdam at the weekend. This resulted in an English win by 405-313, giving them an overall lead of 5-4 in the series.

□ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Surrey Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

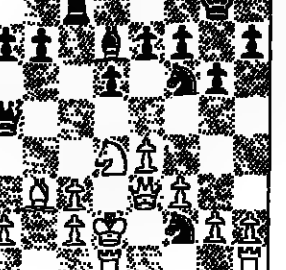
Fide prize
Fide, the World Chess Federation, has clarified its assertion that the prize fund for the Karpov-Kamsky Fide world championship will be \$2 million (about £1.3 million). In a statement last week, it was explained that \$400,000 from this sum would be levied as a tax to Fide, while a further \$500,000 would be donated as a charitable fund for the children of Kalmykia. This leaves \$1.1 million for the players. Here is an early win by Karpov against the young Kamsky. The game is typical of the dour and unrelenting style of both players.

White: Gata Kamsky
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Linares, 1991

Nimzo-Indian Defence			
1 d4	Nf6		
2 c4	e6		
3 Nc3	Bb4		
4 Nf3	Nc6		
5 Bc3	Bxc3+		
6 bxc3	d5		
7 e4	d4		
8 d5	Nd7		
9 Nc3	h6		
10 Bc3	Qc5		
11 Qd3	Qc7		
12 Nc2	Nh5		
13 c5	Nf6		
14 c6	Ng6		
15 0-0-0	Nf6		
16 Be2	Nf6		
17 Rd1	Qe7		
18 Qd1	Kc8		
19 N3	Kc7		
20 N4	Q4		
21 Ne1	Nh5		
22 Qc2	Qe8		
23 Bc3	Bd7		
24 Qd2	Qf8		

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene
Black to play. This position is from the game Cruz-Talavera, Seville, 1996. Earlier in this game, Black sacrificed rook for knight on the c3 square and now has the opportunity to regain this material by capturing either of the White rooks. However, he found something much stronger. Can you see what?



Cup defeat the spur for Neath

By David Hands, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Welsh League and Heineken, its sponsor, part company after this season, but their six-year alliance will be drawn out to the last moment. The league title will not be decided until this evening, the last day of an extended season, when it will either remain at Cardiff Arms Park or pass to Neath.

The argument over bonus points for tries continues, but it has produced a situation in which Neath lead the first division only by virtue of having scored six more tries than Cardiff; both clubs are on 67 points for a season in which four clubs have come through to dominate domestic rugby.

That quartet are matched tonight: Llanelly, lying fourth, visit Cardiff and Pontypridd go to Neath, whom they beat in the Swalec Cup final to win their first title of note. That disappointment will be the spur for Neath.

On the face of it, theirs is the harder task. Pontypridd have been the division's best defenders and they have named a strong team, though there are significant absences in Paul John and Dale McIntosh.

Were Llanelly to win, of course, it would probably hand the title to Neath. Wayne Proctor, who will be required as full back on tour of Australia with Wales, is in his normal position on the wing and Matthew McCarthy is at stand-off half against a Cardiff team including 11 internationals, of whom two, Adrian Davies and Andy Moore, are playing their last game for the club before moving to Rich-

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WORD WATCHING
By Philip Howard

ABSCISS	DYAK
a. A purulent boil	a. A double-hulled canoe
b. To cut off	a. A double-headed axe
c. A counting machine	C. An aboriginal

GLORIA
a. A pink rose
b. Coffee with rum
c. A meringue with cream

In our genes, we all look very much alike

To have one Prime Minister as a cousin may be counted a misfortune, to have two as a misfortune. But the Crust family, undistinguished apart from their relationship to both Margaret Thatcher and John Major, can at least plead that careless lineage is universal.

Relationships are all in the genes or, as Professor Steve Jones put it in the first of his series on genetics, *In The Blood* (BBC1): "History is made in bed. Genes move across the world through sex, not through a wandering tribe of heroes."

Jones is a media academic of the modern school. Whereas Bronowski (*The Ascent of Man*) and Clark (*Civilisation*) came blinking somewhat stiffly before the camera, Jones, in sports coat and open-necked shirt throughout, arrives as if to the manner born.

I will be accused of haste in putting Jones alongside those pre-

decessors but genetics is surely the discovery of the age and neither *The Ascent of Man* nor *Civilisation* was quite as lauded at the time as they have become since. In those terms, *In The Blood* is landmark television.

The first programme, *Lost Tribes*, took Jones ("I'm one of the world's top six small geneticists") to Britain, America, the Middle East and Africa. The notion was to find the Lost Tribes of Israel and the conclusion is that those tribes are not so much lost as distributed among all of us.

Among those claiming direct descent from the Tribes are the Samaritans of the West Bank and the Lemba of Zimbabwe and South Africa. Both have sufficient of the relevant Y chromosomes to justify their claim, but that is not quite how genealogy works.

Thus, a "Lost Tribe" is unlikely to be a group of people who have

moved from one place and simply restarted their generational development somewhere else. The Lemba, for example, probably acquired their genealogical link to the Tribes through the arrival of Semite traders in Africa.

So Jones and his pieces of tracing paper containing the arcane symbols that are DNA demonstrate that the further back you go the more evidence there is of the human race as a single family: "Half the population of the UK is related to William the Conqueror and almost everyone to the Emperor Nero."

Oh yes, and 100,000 of us are related to Major and Thatcher. What makes the Crust special is that they will go on television and admit it.

If all of that means that I may be related to Eve Arnold then hasten the day when my genes unlock her skills. Arnold was profiled in an

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

Omnia film by Beban Kidron for BBC1. Kidron is a skilled filmmaker but I wish this exercise had taken more tips from Arnold herself: the simple, stark processes that make her photography great were illustrated here with gimmicky, staccato filming and irritating cross-cuts.

A small, white-haired woman, Arnold has taken pictures all over the world of people who are all

over history. She is perhaps most famous for penetrating the veil of showbusiness to bring us honest images of Marlene Dietrich, Joan Crawford and, especially, Marilyn Monroe.

Pre-Arnold, stills to publicise films had been mere checkmate or frames from the films themselves. Her pictures sent producers into a panic until they saw the amount of publicity that resulted from photographs of stars putting on their clothes or their make-up.

Arnold knows herself and knows the difference between great photography and most photography. The difference between a fine photographer and an average one is that you have the wit to take advantage of the accident, whatever's going on.

The football season is now over, relief all round. Over, that, is except for the English League play-offs this week, an England match on Saturday and the Euro-

pean championship in England next month. No, the football season is never over.

Just in case the gap of a few hours between games should lead to withdrawal symptoms, *Pair Game* (Channel 4) returned for a new series and focused on the plight of young footballers. This is a real issue, swept under the carpet by the football authorities, and Greg Dyke's programme crystallised it.

Players aged six and upwards are being targeted by top clubs and, in spite of FA rules, there is evidence that schoolboys signed by small clubs are being poached by big ones. The cameras filmed one putative star, signed to Leyton Orient, taking part in a training session with Chelsea, though Chelsea claimed not to know about the Orient connection.

Eight-year-olds now have agents. We saw one in conversa-

tion with the ubiquitous Eric Hall, whose dictionary of adjectives consists of the single word "monster". Hall's agents are certainly larger than some of his clients.

The small clubs which these little players are signed to are turning into nurseries for the giants, in more ways than one. A player cannot be signed on professional terms until he is 17, therefore impoverished clubs can spend years nurturing talent, only to have it snatched away just before a contract is produced.

One is left to wonder about the fathers, some of whom tout their progeny in the same way that some mothers tout girls around baby shows. It is demeaning and worrying. Yet, on Saturday Manchester United won the FA Cup with five players who joined the club as boys. Dreams do come true and dreams propel the human spirit.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (B3714)
6.00am BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (14085)
6.00am BBC Breakfast News Extra (424444)
6.00am Style Counsel (s) (753700) 9.45 Kiboy (s) (6881646) 10.30 Good Morning (s) (97849) 12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (1847714) 12.05pm Call My Bluff (s) (5086846) 12.35 Going for Gold (s) (4573955)

1.00 News (Ceefax); and weather (17172)
1.30 Regional News and weather (62759240)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (69287153)
2.00 Film: *Shimmering Light* (1978) with Sean Connery, Liza Colantoni and Victoria Shaw. American Kevin Costner goes to Australia to fulfil his passion for surfing, but when his girlfriend becomes pregnant and his father becomes terminally ill, Kevin is forced to come to terms with a life that doesn't revolve around the surf. Directed by Don Chaffey (21153)

3.30 Playdays (s) (2506866) 3.50 Monster Cuts (s) (s) (683374) 4.10 *Clasper* (s) (s) (6508289) 4.10 *Demetrius and the Gnomes* (Ceefax) (s) (5875648) 4.35 Out of Time (Ceefax) (s) (2895630) 5.00 Newsround (s) (7254482) 5.10 *Activ8* (Ceefax) (s) (6103265)

5.30 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (710578)
6.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (207)
6.30 Regional News magazines (559)

7.00 2point4 Children. As the neighbours no longer have any pets, surely it is safe for Bill and Ben to look after their house while they are away? (s) (Ceefax) (s) (3761)

7.30 EastEnders. Pat is unimpressed when the police pay her a visit and Peggy's plans for a celebration fail flat (Ceefax) (s) (443)

8.00 Great Ormond Street. Caron Curran is recovering after last week's operation on her cleft palate. Unfortunately the doctors discover the operation has gone wrong. Plus: nine-year-old Grant Robinson, who suffers from the rare Crohn's syndrome, which prevents the face from growing properly, is hoping to change his looks (Ceefax) (6511)

8.30 Funny World. Barbara Windsor introduces sketches and sitcom clips portraying class (Ceefax) (s) (5848)

9.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (6356)
9.30 Men Behaving Badly. In the last of this series Gary is in for a shock when he returns from a weekend away to find his girlfriend, Dorothy, in bed with his best mate, Tony (s) (Ceefax) (s) (22917)

WALEs: 9.30 Week in Week Out
10.00 Cardiac Arrest. The doctors disagree over the correct treatment of patients. Claire leaves Scissors about Sister Novac (Ceefax) (s) (75511) WALEs: 10.00 Men Behaving Badly

10.30 A Knife to the Heart: *Walking the Tightrope* (Ceefax) (s) (171887) WALEs: 10.30 Cardiac Arrest 11.00 A Knife to the Heart 11.50-1.50am Film: *Catch-22*

11.25 Film: *Catch-22* (1970) starring Alan Arkin. Wonderful adaptation of Joseph Heller's anti-war novel, set in 1944 on an American Air Force base on a small Mediterranean island. Directed by Mike Nichols. (Ceefax) (883288)

12.00am Weather (1780775)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to programme your video recorder to record a particular programme. To use the Video PlusCodes for the programme you wish to record, enter the "V" PlusCode (V) and Video Programme are trademarks of Genstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00 Open University: Science (7119004) 6.25 The Birth of Modern Geometry (7198511) 6.50 Geology (5212004)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (4519172)

7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (35578) 8.00 Blue Peter (s) (Ceefax) (s) (727578) 8.25 Oakie Doke (s) (s) (5238191) 8.40 The Record (s) (8739153)

9.05 Daytime on Two Islam (4421356) 9.25 Christianity (443820) 9.45 Watch (581801) 10.00 Playdays (2192207) 10.25 Come Outside (2212004) 10.40 Liteschool Extra (8753917) 11.05 Space Ark (3887678) 11.15 Writing and Pictures (9378849) 11.30 Gosh-writer (5191) 12.00 See Hear (72424) 12.30pm Working Lunch (21545) 1.00 Teaching Today (15714) 1.30 Showcase (62757882) 1.40 Hotch Potch House (68285795) 2.00 Oakie Doke (44769337)

2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (7021424) 3.00 News 3.05 Westminster (Ceefax) (s) (9463849) 3.55 News (8925714)

4.00 Today's the Day (s) (172) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (356) 5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show (Ceefax) (s) (4424807)

5.40 The Ladies of the House: Margaret Beckett, MP (23375)

6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (s) (788268) 6.25 Heartbreak High (Ceefax) (s) (912482)

7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show (Ceefax) (s) (332795)

7.30 The Technophobe's Guide to the Future. In the last of the series Domink Diamond travels to Belfast to investigate a computer-based educational system achieving dramatic results. Pauline Curk discovers how to keep her PC in working order (s) (135)

8.00 The Works: On the Ghost Road (Ceefax) (s) (4153)

8.30 Floyd on Africa. (47) The cook continues his tour of southern Africa, a visit to the coastal town of Matjiesburg, Madagascars (Ceefax) (s) (3288)

9.00 Murder One: Chapter Eleven. Hoffman and Grasso continue to question prospective jurors (Ceefax) (s) (584191)

9.45 Consumed by Fire. French geologists Maurice and Kana Kratt travelled the world to witness volcanic eruptions, shooting more than 800 hours of spectacular film footage. But tragedy struck in 1991, when they were engulfed by a Japanese volcano (Ceefax) (s) (576358)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (884207)

11.15 Moving Pictures. Film magazine. With Kurt Russell, John Carpenter and Oliver Stone. (Ceefax) (s) (469172)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (s) (63825) (7116620) 12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

The Works: On the Ghost Road BBC2, 8.00pm

Pat Barker, Booker Prize winner for her novel of the First World War, joins a coach tour of Britain to the battlefields of the Somme. The trip has the specific purpose of finding the last resting place of an uncle, the wider one of thinking about the psychology of war. Although the site of the battle is now gentle green fields, for Barker the Somme ranks with the Holocaust as the central horror of 20th-century civilisation. She ponders on the confrontation of idealistic young bodies and instruments of mass destruction, and the distinction which set in Siegfried Sassoon, who mixed bravery in war with the courage to speak against it, is a particular Barker hero. But she also remembers the soldiers who were not famous and who failed to survive.

Without Walls: Painted Ladies Channel 4, 9.30pm

"I couldn't design a thing," declares Vivienne Westwood, who has made her name as a three-part series she lets us in on some of the connections she has made between paintings and sculptures and the clothes that feature in her collections. Her first film is subtitled "nobility, virtue and morality" and carries the message that if clothes cannot express our higher aspirations as human beings, they are not doing their job. To illustrate her theme Westwood starts with ancient Greek drapery, and traces its influence through what she calls the timeless state clothing of Louis XIV and into the 19th century. Some may want to dispute Westwood's assertion that changes in fashion are always aesthetic, as if they had nothing to do with material forces. But she promises to be as provocative before the camera as she is on the catwalk.

Knife to the Heart: Walking the Tightrope BBC1, 10.30pm

As transplant surgery moved into the 1970s its very success started throwing up difficulties. The biggest concern of doctors was that the patient's body would reject the new organ. Transplants could save and prolong life, but what about the quality of that life? The third film of an honest and illuminating series looks at attempts to overcome rejection. The trouble was that the powerful drugs used for the purpose often had intolerable side-effects. In Florida a 15-year-old boy begged a court to allow him to die rather than suffer any more pain. A woman who took anti-rejection drugs after a liver transplant became violent, even to her baby. The case of Laura Davies, the little girl who was flown to the United States for transplant operations, raises the question of whether doctors, egged on by the media, are prolonging life unnecessarily.

Network First: Inside Burma - Land of Fear ITV, 10.40pm

John Pilger's relentless exposure of human atrocity takes him to Asia but, as usual, his villains also come from the capitalist West. Burma offers rich material for Pilgerian condemnation. For more than 30 years a repressive military dictatorship has stamped out democracy, tortured and imprisoned its opponents, and employed child and slave labour as a matter of routine. That is Pilger's case, and he offers the evidence to back it. Much of the filming had to be done secretly, including an interview with Aung San Suu Kyi, the house-arrested leader of Burmese democracy. Her hope and belief is that the Burmese people will one day overthrow the military regime and bring about a more or less equal society on a democratic and Western companies which are helping to sustain it.

Peter Waymark

HTV

5.00am GMTV (5482358)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (7512795)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (2179354)

10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (8414737)
10.35 This Morning (5084867)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (1843898)
12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (4598191)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (4573882)
1.25 High Road (Teletext) (1899733)

2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (19784559)

2.25 Murder, She Wrote. Starring Angela Lansbury (s) (7037085)

3.30 News headlines (Teletext) (7881530)
3.35 Regional News (Teletext) (7890801)

3.50 The Magic House (s) (s) (4631171) 3.40 Tots TV (s) (1228882) 3.50 Sooty and Co (s) (s) (2502289) 4.15 Antimatter (Teletext) (s) (5869005) 4.40 Chris Cross (s) (Teletext) (s) (278684)

5.10 Forgotten Ports. Sir Brian Knox-Johnston continues his cruise up the Bristol Channel accompanied by "Spud" Spedding (8756443)

5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (229801)
6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (s) (776795)

6.25 HTV News (200511)

7.00 Emmerdale. The media witness a miracle (Teletext) (s) (2559)

7.30 West Eye View. Current affairs (Teletext) (51)

8.00 The Bill: Tough Love. When a bully gets his comeuppance, Holly and Gail have to collar the culprit (Teletext) (1207)

8.30 The Cook Report. An expose of a trade in infants from Third World villages to Britain (s) (8694)

9.00 Frontiers. After a series of sick and successful robberies, a member of the gang gets trigger-happy and shoots an innocent bystander. (Teletext) (s) (9795)

10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (87397)
10.30 Regional News (Teletext) (436581)

10.40 Network First: Inside Burma - Land of Fear (Teletext) (289220)

11.40 Moll: Moore: Loose Cannon (827172)
12.40 Film: *Steel Dawn* (1973) starring Donald Sutherland, Jane Fonda and Peter Boyle. Comedy about a motley crew who restore a Second World War bomber with the idea of flying away from it. But when they run out of money they resort to other means to finish the job. Directed by Alan Hudson (88267)

2.25 Late & Load (s) (7610283)
3.20 The Chart Show (s) (s) (2104841)
4.10 Murder, She Wrote (s) (2396573)
5.00 The LADS (s) (73399)
5.30 Morning News (51080)

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HTV WALES

As HTV West except:
5.10pm-5.40 On the Road with Eleanor (5756443)

6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (200511)
7.30-8.00 Homeground (511)

As HTV West except:
12.25-12.30 My Story (1851917)

12.55 Emmerdale (4573882)
1.25-1.55 Cross Wits (31246085)

1.55 Home and Away (3952898)
2.25 Liz Earle's Lifestyle (1978646)

2.55-3.00 A Country Practice (6524530)
3.10-3.40 Home and Away (9756443)

3.50-4.00 Westcountry Live (71040)
4.00-4.30 Check It Out (511)

4.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (827172)

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Emmerdale (4573882)

1.25 Home and Away (31246085)

1.55 Shortland Street (69291356)

2.20 Liz Earle's Lifestyle (19786375)

2.50-3.20 Land Girls (2382375)

3.10 Home and Away (9756443)

3.57-4.00 Three Minutes (411358)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (375)

6.30-7.00 On Your Marks (627)

7.30-8.00 Danger Money (511)

8.00 Prisoner Cell Block H (827172)

8.00am FreeScreen (73399)

Starts: 6.30 Chicken Minute (79424) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (18545) 9.00 The Golden Girls (87358) 9.30 Yagolion: Eureka! (5887714) 9.45 Jaws! (613882) 10.10 Cr Smm in Carnage (5871124) 10.30 Using Museums (78240) 11.00 Science in Focus (3776648) 11.20 Stage One (9353530) 11.35 Schools at Work (5058207) 11.40 Gung - Is It for You? (782042) 12.00 Home to House (90820) 12.30pm Madeline (28191) 1.00 Slot Madeline (58023) 1.30 The Garry Shandling Show (88241581) 4.30 Rescue (424) 5.00 5 Pump: Uned 5 (3527) 5.30 Fifteen to One (284) 6.00 Newyddion (123237) 6.15 Heno (918646) 7.00 Pobl Y Cwm (480453) 7.25 Shotolau (305578) 8.00 Rap (9549) 8.30 Newyddion (10400) 8.50 The Best of Gwent (7337) 10.00 Brookside (58849) 10.35 Triumph of the Nerds (539761) 11.35 Father Ted (235891) 12.05am Gore Vidal's American Presidency (4748757) 12.35 Painted Ladies (3479660) 1.05 Get Netted (6710270) 1.10 Cello 4.00 Yagolion (2308863)

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TUESDAY MAY 14 1996

RACING 49

TAXING TIMES
AHEAD FOR
FOREIGN OWNERS

Back's push on referee brings six-month ban

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NEIL BACK, the Leicester flanker, completed a miserable climax to his club's season when he received a six-month suspension from the Rugby Football Union (RFU) yesterday for pushing Steve Lander, the referee, at the end of the Pilkington Cup final against Bath ten days ago.

However, since the punishment dates from the time of the offence, Back, 27 and capped five times by England, will miss only two months of the new season. He can resume playing on November 4 but will miss sundry overseas trips during the summer and Leicester's pre-season tour of South Africa.

For that reason, there will be criticism that the punishment has not been more severe since assault on a match official is the worst crime in rugby's canon, carrying with it the potential for a life ban.



Cockerill, the Leicester hooker, centre, helps Lander to his feet as Back turns away. Photograph: Marc Aspland

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Back agreed what is understood to be a five-year contract with Leicester only last week and he is to discuss the financial implications with Peter Wheeler, the club chief executive. It is likely that he will not suffer financially, though he will regret missing a charity tour to the Ivory Coast later this month, in aid of the Max Brito fund, and the possibility of a trip with the Barbarians to Japan.

"We have had an awful few weeks, narrowly missing out in league and cup," Wheeler said, "but at least Neil knows that his version of events is believed by both the club and the RFU and that he has the support of the club."

The reaction of the newly-formed Rugby Union Players Association (Rupa) was admirably succinct. "There has been concern about the attitude of players on the field in the professional era, but, amateur or pro, the referee's word is law and nobody should put that face in jeopardy," Richard Moon, the Rupa secretary, said.

"Obviously the RFU felt that the game had been brought into disrepute and we support this attempt to uphold the good name of rugby. We don't want to go down the road of the other sports where the officials are abused and jostled by players."

"Rugby players will be reminded by this ban that they

are in the shop window and watched by millions of youngsters."

Such is the effect of the television camera, which can beam an image round the globe and replay it time after time. It takes no account of the view at players' eye-level, set against a backdrop of heaving humanity in the crowd, or of the dramatic circumstances of a cup final lost to a controversial penalty-decision taken by the referee minutes earlier.

As one of the senior clubs courting television money, Leicester will have to live with that image. Sixteen months ago, a junior club player in Devon was banned for life for hitting the referee. Back, who has pleaded that he mistook Lander for Andy Robertson, the Bath flanker, was guilty of no more than a disappointed push, but the ill-disciplined impression remains.

Back was not available for comment, but Lander, from Liverpool, was satisfied with the verdict. "The principle of not laying hands on the referee has been upheld," he said. "There has always been a good relationship between players and referees. You can always talk to them afterwards and let's hope that continues."

Francis Pienaar, who was due to lead the Barbarians against Ireland at Lansdowne Road on Saturday, has withdrawn because of injury.



Follett asserts his growing supremacy over the Durham batsmen by removing Campbell's middle stump

Follett able to scale new heights after conquering Lord's slope

BY SIMON WILDE

LORD'S (final day of four):
Middlesex (20pts) beat Durham
(5) by 306 runs

DAVID FOLLETT, a little-known member of the Middlesex playing staff, returned the best bowling figures in a match at Lord's for 20 years when he destroyed Durham with a return of eight for 22 yesterday. His performance gave Middlesex the easiest of wins, Durham being dismissed for just 67, the lowest total of the season and their lowest in five years as a first-class county.

Follett, 27, playing in only his third first-class match, came on at the Pavilion End to bowl the thirteenth over of the day at 11.45am. Durham having ostensibly begun the task of attempting to score 374 to win. He dismissed Roseberry leg-before with his first ball

and, within 2½ hours — which included the 40-minute lunch interval — the match was completed. Follett claiming all his wickets in the course of 74 balls.

His second victim was Campbell, Durham's overseas player, who scored 23 and was the only man to reach double figures. The West Indies opener was bowled middle stump playing for swing that did not materialise; but Follett did move the ball around at other times — movement sometimes exaggerated, of course, by the natural slope of the Lord's ground.

The slope played its part in the dismissals of Hutton, the left-hander, who was caught superbly by Carr at slip, and Collingwood, deceived into padding up and trapped leg-before, in Follett's fifth over. In his seventh, Foster was bowled by a swinging full toss and, in his eighth, Daley was

caught behind from a ball of extra bounce.

Durham tottered into lunch on 49 for seven, when the strapping Follett, sporting figures of six for 16, led his team into the pavilion for the first, but not the last, time. Refreshed, but perhaps distracted after reflecting on his earlier success, he resumed

Essex in hot pursuit 48
Dale reaches peak 48
McCaughy's remainder 48

with two lacklustre overs. Scott, often an obdurate customer, then obligingly played a poor shot into the hands of Weekes at first slip and, although Fraser claimed the next wicket, Follett was not to be denied the scalp of Betts, the last man.

Upon that dismissal, Follett stooped and kissed the pitch, as well he might. He took five first-innings wickets in the defeat by Gloucestershire at Lord's earlier this month, but otherwise his greatest claim to fame had been opening the bowling with Dominic Cork for the under-19 team in his native Staffordshire.

Follett came to the attention of several counties after gathering a clutch of wickets for Staffordshire in 1994 and, after he had appeared for three other county's second XIs, Middlesex offered him terms. His 1995 season was, however, ruined by a serious foot injury and, but for injuries to senior players, he would not have got his chance so soon this year.

Given the opportunity, he bowled with great accuracy and made good use of an

occasional quicker ball, but it would be unfair to describe him as the "finished article".

Even he knows that he could have done better. "I did not bowl as well as I can," he said. "My line was pretty good, but my length could have been more consistent." He seemed completely unfazed by turning in the best figures at cricket's headquarters since Paddy Clift of Leicestershire, who took eight for 17 against MCC in 1976.

This defeat will be another sobering experience for Durham, who could hardly blame a pitch that exhibited far less variable bounce than on the first day.

They needed somebody to graft their way through the day, but nobody was forthcoming. Morris might have been, but he was adjudged caught at silly point off Tufnell, the only contentious decision of the day.



Follett, left, is congratulated by Gattling, his captain

Harding's bridges burnt by Bates

BY ALISON RLEDD AND ALAN DAIR MURRAY

THE power struggle at Stamford Bridge between Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, and Matthew Harding, one of the club's leading directors, is seemingly over. With the uneasy truce of the past months ended by a Stock Exchange announcement yesterday, the clear indication was that Bates had gained the upper hand.

The price of success for Bates is, effectively, £10 million. The statement yesterday declared that the agreement between the two protagonists for Harding to invest such a sum in the club, in return for greater influence at Chelsea and the title of vice-chairman, had been scrapped. Harding remains a Chelsea director and 55 million of his existing loan stock in the club was converted yesterday into 14 million ordinary shares. This leaves Harding, a reinsurance businessman, as the third-largest shareholder with a holding of 12 per cent.

The value of the club's shares was not affected by the announcement.

Relations between Bates and Harding have deteriorated during the past year, reaching almost comic proportions when Bates banned Harding from the directors' box last November. Their subsequent pact was, it transpires, built on shaky foundations. The main sticking-point,

from Harding's point of view, was a lack of information on who controls Chelsea Village, the club's parent company. Without that information, Harding's advisers told him that further investment in the club would not be advisable.

Bates said yesterday that another wealthy investor keen to help Raul Gullit, the new Chelsea player-manager, to strengthen his squad had contacted him. Bates said of Harding: "It was put up or shut up time. He played a game of politics that backfired on him." Bates said

Collymore ruled out 50
Francis returns 50

that Gullit's reported £12 million-a-year salary is funded by profits generated by club turnover and not by Harding. "Mr Harding created a great mystique," Bates said.

Harding's wealth is estimated at £64 million. He bought the freehold of Stamford Bridge for £16.5 million from under the nose of Bates after the latter had negotiated a short-term lease for the ground. The club now pays rent of £250,000 a year to Harding. In theory, Harding could wield some power by calling in the £5 million that he lent the club for transfer fees, but Bates said that

the club could withstand such action by selling players.

Gullit has yet to sign his new contract as player-manager, but he appeared unconcerned by developments yesterday. He said: "I have my transfer budget and this will not affect it. It is nothing to do with the team or the players. It is to do with the club. All I'm interested in is that this thing is resolved as quickly as possible for the benefit of Chelsea."

Gullit would like to attract other high-profile international players, such as Gianluca Vialli, the Juventus forward, to Chelsea, but their wages would be high and Gullit will need assurances from Colin Hutchinson, the Chelsea managing director, that funds will be available.

One effect of Harding's involvement in the past year has been to throw the spotlight on Chelsea Village and what impact its development plans will have on the football club, which is one of six operating subsidiaries. Bates controls 30.3 million of the Chelsea Village shares, but the bulk of the remaining 89 million shares are held by overseas investors, the identity of whom Bates has withheld.

Chelsea Middlesex are today expected to announce the signing of Emerson, the FC Porto midfielder player, for about £4 million. He would follow Juninho and Brancu as the latest Brazilian to move to the Riverside Stadium.

Jackson sets out to claim long jump record

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN NUREMBERG

COLIN JACKSON is to give up his European 110 metres hurdles title in an attempt to break the oldest British athletics record in the book. Jackson, the sprint hurdles world record-holder, said yesterday that he plans to attack Lynn Davies's British long jump mark, set in 1968.

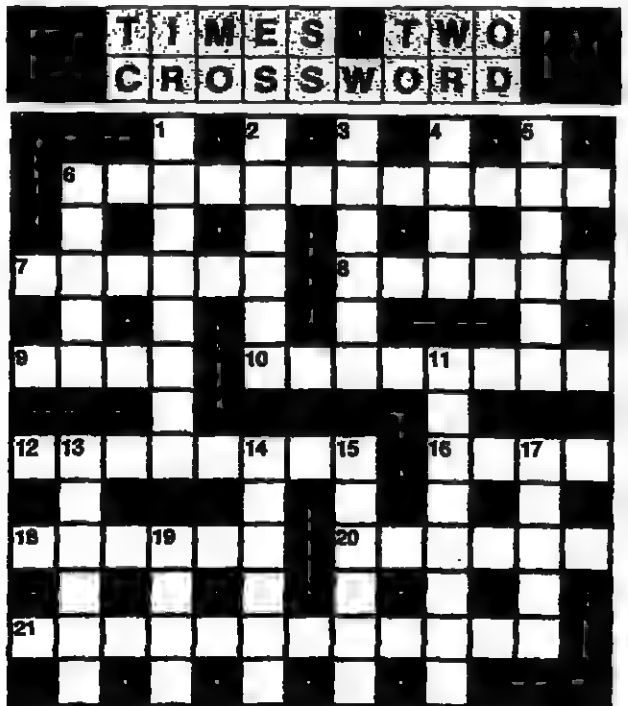
Who will teach him the tricks of his new trade? "Lynn has said he will coach me," Jackson said. The record, now 28 years unchallenged, has become an embarrassment to British athletics, but competition to break it will not hot up soon. Jonathan Edwards, the triple jump world record-holder, has also said that, at some stage soon, he will attempt to beat Davies's record. A head-to-head on the third anniversary of the record in 1998 is something that the British Athletics Federation promotions office should start thinking about.

Both athletes are sponsored by Puma, which has provided a financial incentive in each man's contract to break the British record. Edwards has until 1998 to beat Jackson to it. That is European championships year, when he intends to concentrate on the long jump "to the exclusion of the hurdles". Jackson has been European hurdles champion since 1990.

He was an outstanding teenage long-jumper, recording 7.96 metres wind-assisted and 7.68 metres legally. Davies's record is 8.23 metres.

"It is really going to be down to him [Davies] to put the time in to coach me," Jackson said. "He keeps showing me how far it is, but he always tells me I can do it." Both men come from Cardiff.

For the next two summers, Jackson will concentrate on trying to win his first Olympic gold medal and regain his world title in the hurdles. After 1998, he will return to hurdling, he said.



No 781

ACROSS

- 6 I can give this assurance (7,3,2)
 7 Sunder (6)
 8 Headress of wound cloth (6)
 9 Go fast: hit, clothing accessory (4)
 10 Reduce by one-tenth (8)
 12 Like an angel (8)
 16 Flier - bird or toy (4)
 18 Gain (6)
 20 Supply copiously: delight (6)
 21 Tax-evading sector (3,7)

DOWN

- 1 Monastery walk (8)
 2 Execute on Tower Green (6)
 3 Fevered; very busy (6)
 4 Sullenly obstinate (4)
 5 Bestow, relate (6)
 6 Very light brown (5)
 11 Succeed; repair (4,4)
 13 Forerunner (6)
 14 Samuel —, Erehwon author (6)
 15 Ribbon; security chain (6)
 17 Correspond; noore, mark (5)
 19 Confront; visage (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 780

ACROSS: 1 Homicide 5 Ward 9 Bader 10 Newbolt
 11 Arizona 12 Dreps 13 Get the nod 18 Offer
 20 Garrick 22 Pen name 23 Godot 24 Sale 25 Betrayer
 DOWN: 1/16 Habeas corpus 2 Madding 3 Cargo
 4 Dental hygiene 6 Abode 7 Detest 8 Sweden 14 Threat
 15 Drip-dry 17 Slater 19 Final 21 Roger

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Have you got it insured?

Thousands queue at the Antiques Roadshow only to be told that their 'treasures' are junk, says Giles Coren

WHERE once they would have gathered in the faint hope of loaves and fish, an assembly of 5,000 in the late 1990s is after richer pickings. The discovery of undreamt-of wealth is top of the list, along with the chance to appear, however fleetingly, on a BBC television show and to shake hands with Hugh Scully.

These are the disciples of the Antiques Roadshow, come to touch the coat-tails of their masters at the Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth, where the second episode in the new series is being filmed. The horde plods in delirious semi-silence around an imaginary maze like pre-democratic Russians in a bread queue — and with as much chance of hearing good news at the end.

The Roadshow is a broadcasting enigma. While viewing figures in general have been declining in the face of the cable and satellite challenge, the Roadshow has just finished its most successful series ever, reaching more than 14 million viewers.

"I have often described it as a conversation between two people with 13 million eavesdroppers," says Hugh Scully, nursing a large Glenmorangie in a Portsmouth hotel the night before filming. "It is a people show. Their humour and their personality make it work. The antiques are ancillary. It is the quintessential BBC programme, fulfilling the Reithian ideal of education, information and entertainment in equal measures."

A more cynical viewpoint might see the show as the thinking person's *The Price Is Right*. Show the object, allow time for its value to be guessed and then reveal the truth — to the joy or despair of the contestant. Revelations of huge worth satisfy the lottery factor — fifteen THOUSAND pounds! — and the exposing of fakes or reproductions lets us revel in Schadenfreude.

We all love to hear the little old man, who is told his rocking chair is worth ten grand, say: "I'd never sell it. It was my father's," and cry "Rubbish!" at the screen. And we love to see people's eyes pop out of their heads at the mention of large sums of money despite all their attempts at decorum and protestations that "I had no idea".

But that does not adequately explain why 5,000 people snaked around the forecourt



Jason Smith, above, arrives at the Roadshow with his grandmother's painting of *The Needles* — to be told it is "useful for decoration". Others queue up to five hours



of the Royal Naval Museum at nine o'clock on a Thursday morning in drizzling rain, carrying plastic bags full of chipped crockery and Ikea coffee tables.

The majority are old women, and the items most in evidence are folding chairs, fashioned in aluminium at the turn of the decade, most of them supporting elderly bottoms, and not for sale at any price.

The odd sore thumb sticks out. Jason Smith is 26 and wears khaki combat trousers, army boots, crew-cut hair and rings through his ears and nose. "My mum and dad are at work but I'm unemployed, so I've come down with the family treasures. I've got a one-inch pistol, a 70-year-old doll and a painting of boats on The Needles which belonged to my grandmother. She died in October and I always

promised her I'd take it to the Roadshow if it ever came to Portsmouth. I wouldn't sell it because I was close to my nan. But if it was worth as much as, like, a National Lottery rollover, then I'd have to think about it."

Dave Aldred, a pensioner who has been queuing since 7am, is equally adamant that he won't sell his pigeon-timer, and an elderly man who has been there since Sam claims he will cling on to his wooden cup at all costs.

In the hall itself there is orderly bustle. There is no breaking of ranks, for places in the queue are too precious. And the junk on show is extraordinary. For every object that makes it on to a recorded programme there are perhaps a thousand that are passed over. The queues file up to their chosen expert — you can tell the experts because they wear either a bow-tie or facial hair — and

after four or five hours' queuing each person gets about a minute. There is seldom the preamble you see on television — just a couple of questions: How long have they had it? Do they like it? Followed by an estimate of date, place of manufacture and value.

The more popular the expert, the briefer the audience. At David Battie's table it goes like this: "NEXT! Right, late 19th century, mass produced I'm afraid, not really worth much, thank you. NEXT! Yes, both of you, one on either side. Factory stuff again, 1920s, very nice though, wouldn't fetch anything at auction."

Eventually, of course, something good comes up. Then the expert dashes off with it to find the producer. The cameras roll in and the full money is provided. The owner is not told anything in the meanwhile. Onlooking eyes glaze over while the history of the thing is explored and then

light up again when we get to the "How much did you pay for it?" bit. Salivating begins at the "Tell me, have you got it insured?" and by the time he is into the sentence that begins: "It is all about finding the right buyer, but at auction..." they are hopping up and down. And then he says: "Three thou..." and the crowd has dispersed before the word is finished. The performance is over.

For most, however, the cameras do not come. And, like good British subjects, the disappointed punters take it on the chin. Jason Smith is exemplary. Still 45 minutes from the front of the queue, he is sanguine: "I'll only mind if it turns out to be a dud."

Tim Wonnacot, meanwhile, who presides over the miscellaneous table, is shown a pile of old records, a Sooty glove puppet with no fur, a Vitalite

tub full of plastic chess pieces, a game of Bezique, a plastic doll — "Ideally, dolls should have a porcelain head," he says politely, "and date before this century" — and heaps of teddy bears.

Jane Bleen, who has brought "everything I own because I need the money", shows him a "jim-jam case in the shape of a teddy that went to the cleaners during the war and came back without his

growl". Her husband has a broken cow creamer (£30) and a toy carpenter's set. A man with a sauce boat, missing its saucer, is advised to take it home and put gravy in it.

Bizarre snippets of knowledge wait in the air — "A brooch probably torn off a kimono" — "This is a standard bottle, not strictly collectible" — "Your old Bible from school? What happened to the cover?" And every now and then: "Jug, 1930s. £5."

"Most of the stuff has no financial value," says jewellery man John Benjamin, "but I can get interested in anything. The important thing is to be nice to the bringers, and let them down gently."

The repertoire of euphemisms is impressive — "A thing of purpose" — "a collectible of the future". One man who hopes he has an early example of a Japanese cine camera is told: "Not an early example as such, but certainly an example."

Peter Nahum, the iconoclastic picture man, is passed a G.F. Warts by a co-expert, unsure of whether it is an original, and drops the euphemism of the afternoon. He holds the picture to the light for a couple of seconds, turns to the owner and says: "Almost unique."

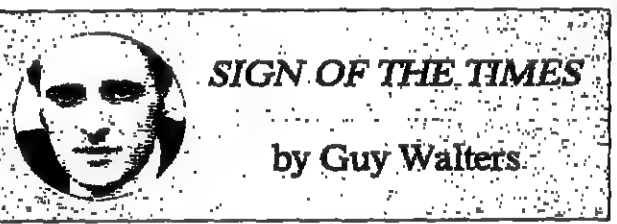
"It is a very personal thing, having your treasures judged in public," says Mr Scully. "Sometimes they do not respond well. One woman on the Isle of Wight thought she had a Constable. When the expert said it was a copy, she just wouldn't believe him, and after 20 minutes' arguing stalked off. But you can understand it. For 20 years she had been showing people into the drawing room and saying 'Here is the Constable.' Then it is exposed as a copy in front of 13 million people."

Just then I spotted Jason Smith again, peeling away from Peter Nahum's table. It was 3pm, more than five hours since I had first seen him in the queue. His was not a Constable either.

"Five hours and he says 'useful for decoration'. You have to laugh," he says. "He said it was a chronolithograph, a sort of photocopy they used to do 100 years ago, of a painting by an unknown artist."

And he laughs again. "It's bloody worthless."

Set snobs alight



SIGN OF THE TIMES
by Guy Walters

VULGAR are those who tell of their visits to expensive restaurants or exotic lands. Conversations that begin, "When I was in Rio..." or, "That reminds me of something we were talking about at Le Caprice..." are regularly issued by destination snobs.

But many of these vulgarities are opting for a more subtle means of revealing their globe-trotting and capacious stomachs. Their tool is the humble matchbox.

Even for non-smokers, matchboxes bearing the name of some suitably pukka restaurant or hotel are an ideal form of non-verbal indication of superior lifestyle. The appeal of these grand-looking parcels of ferrophosphorus-dipped splinters is impossible to underestimate. Witness the Halifax's latest poster campaign. Above the words, "There's more to life than a mortgage", the advertisement shows a battery of matchboxes from places such as Cliveden, L'Escargot and Mezzo. With barely any intrinsic worth, the matchbox is a priceless symbol of a vast disposable income: someone who flourishes a Tante Claire matchbox is unlikely to drive a second-hand Ford Escort.

Yet this allurement-posturing is still vulgar. The whole point of using them is for others to notice. After all, they are to restaurants and hotels what carrier bags are to shops: cheap, portable advertisements that make the bearer as much a commercial pawn as the bygone sandwich board man.

The ultimate in matchbox snobbery is the basket or bowl which acts as a receptacle for countless examples. This can usually be found in the drawing-room. It screams "We've been everywhere!"

The appeal of the "destination matchbox" is unlikely to die out. Perhaps the only way to counter it is to refuse a light from someone who has one. Alternatively, why not produce a box of Bryant & May matches and say, "Oh look! These came from High Wycombe! You mean you've never been there?"

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Is France leaving us behind?

Anatole Kaletsky says growth can be achieved the French way

When President Chirac arrives in London this morning, he will have to face something more daunting than a plate of roast beef. He will be made to confront his country's economic failure — its 12 per cent unemployment and its inability to compete in the world. He will be told there is no such thing as a "European third way" between Anglo-Saxon capitalism and socialist central planning. He will hear from John Major himself that scepticism about a single currency is motivated by plain British common sense: our economic approach happens to work, while Europe's does not.

But Mr Major should watch out. The French President might meet all this condescension with a simple question: "What exactly does Britain have to crow about?" France, after all, overtook Britain some 30 years ago to become the world's fourth largest economy. And it is not just a matter of statistics. By most measures of the quality of life — from income per head to gastronomy or the preservation of rural traditions — the French are doing better. They have excellent public and private transport, a lavishly generous health service, and schools that put ours to shame. They even own 70 per cent of the Channel Tunnel.

Yes, say the Euro-sceptics, but all that is history. Since the Thatcher revolution, the tables have been turned. With our flexible markets, low taxes and dynamic entrepreneurs, we are catching up. We will soon overtake France, along with the rest of sclerotic Europe. This is a fine argument but for a small problem: it is not true.

Some indicators, including the oft-quoted rate of unemployment, do show Britain doing better than France, but in terms of long-term growth and job creation, there has been no improvement in Britain's relative position since 1979. In fact between 1979 and 1995, Britain had exactly the same average growth rate of 1.9 per cent, and the same paucity rate of job creation, 0.17 per cent a year.

Even on unemployment, Britain has a dubious record. Male unemployment is actually higher in Britain, even after three years of recovery, than it is in France in the depth of recession: 11 per cent against 10.8 per cent.

Britain's jobless figures are flattered by remarkably low female unemployment: 4.3 per cent in Britain against 14.9 per cent in France. Women are, of course, as entitled to jobs as men. But should we be so very proud of a society in which families cannot support themselves unless mothers take low-paid, part-time jobs of the kind which many French women seem to reject?

But what about the prospect? Looking ahead, surely things in Britain are getting better while France is going from bad to worse? I myself used to believe this. But recently two things have changed.

We in Britain have failed to build on the reforms of the 1980s to try to catch up with Europe. Instead, the Treasury and the Bank of England have deliberately stifled the economy to keep growth down to a miserable "trend" rate between 2.2 and 2.5 per cent, a rate which countries like France are probably capable of achieving even without deregulation or trade union reform. In France, meanwhile, I sense changes in the opposite direction.

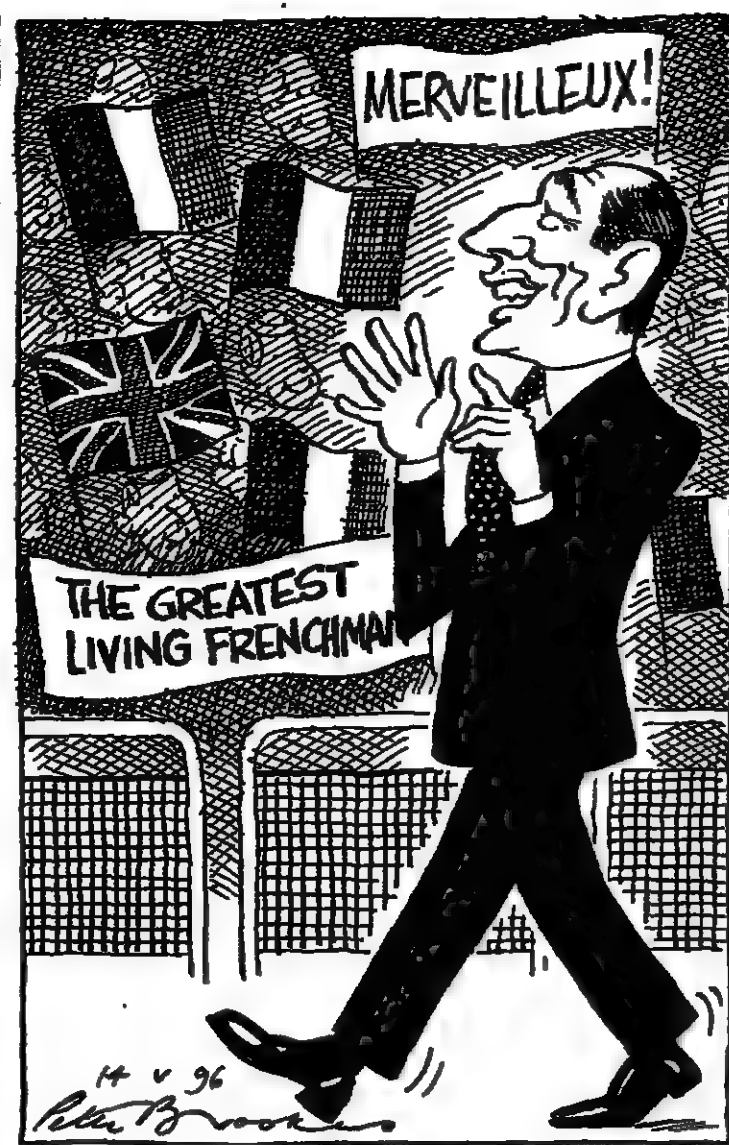
The French seem to have won their long battle with the Bundesbank. It now looks as if the single currency will be created on French terms — with the Maastricht targets softened, and European currencies devalued against the dollar and yen. If you believe, as I do, that the main cause of France's unemployment was never economic "rigidity", but the French elite's obsession with aping German monetary policy, this is an immensely important change.

From next year onwards, low interest rates and a weaker franc could allow France to grow considerably faster than Britain's self-imposed speed limit of 2.5 per cent. And faster growth would produce a surge of job creation, as it did from 1986 to 1989. If, in the meantime, Britain sticks to defeatist caution, the gap that separates us from France, far from narrowing, will again start to widen.

If this happens, it will not prove that Britain's reforms were wrong or that the French are better off with a highly regulated economy. It will prove only that markets can work in societies of all kinds. Just as the human race can prosper in all kinds of climates as long as it has the basic requirements of food, water and fuel, so the market system is adaptable enough to function under a wide variety of tax, regulatory and political regimes — provided it gets the oxygen of demand.

The question now is which country will be more willing to supply that oxygen. If we in Britain really believe that our economic structures are stronger than Europe's, we should be confident enough to run our economy at a much higher growth-rate than Germany or France. Yet all British politicians are united in thinking that rapid growth would lead straight to inflationary disaster.

Britain once might have proved that Thatcherite market economics really would produce a "tiger economy" with rapid rates of growth. But John Major threw away that chance, first as Chancellor in 1989, and then as Prime Minister in the years after Black Wednesday. Now, with the Bundesbank's grip slipping, the Europeans may have a chance to try out their "third way" in earnest, and so see if it can produce faster growth and more jobs. There is no reason, apart from xenophobia, to assume they will fail.



Greening of the giants

Multinationals are boycotting industrial fishing — in their own interest

As you read this, all being well, I shall be on the sea surface, coasting from the southern North Sea down towards Land's End. In a small boat these days one's mind turns surprisingly often to the seabed; not for any morbid reason, but because of a growing unease about what is happening down there. You do not need to be a marine scientist to know that something is going wrong. If you sail round Britain, there are points — usually in the North and West, open to the Atlantic — where the sea looks and smells pleasantly alive, with swooping birds and evidence of fish in careless natural abundance. Equally, there are places where it becomes dead: the North Sea has grown visibly more moribund and polluted in the past two decades. The effects of modern industrial overfishing are clear: fewer fish mean fewer birds, seals and dolphins.

It is not just a matter of the obvious edible fish, the ones over which our fishermen and Europe's quarrel so vocally. The big white fish are theoretically protected by international legislation — but the craziness of EU quotas is that they can only police the landing, not the fishing, so the prime effect of all this fuss is to make fishermen dump the smaller fish back into the sea, dead, doing nobody any good at all. That is bad enough, but all the time an even greater enemy of sea life flourishes totally unrestricted: the industrial fisheries in which extremely fine nets and seabed scoops are used to take millions of small, "low-value" fish.

At least, the sprats and sand-eels and pout may be low-value to us, but they are invaluable to bigger fish, such as cod and haddock, for which they are the staple food. They are also life and death to seabirds. These thousand and slinky things beneath the slimy sea are the basis of marine life. Yet, heedless of the effects which are already evident (fish scarcity, frequent crashes in the population of UK-nesting birds such as puffins), we efficiently scoop and scrape them up, year after year, so they can be made into fishmeal and fish oils for the food industry (have you any soft margarine in your fridge?).

This material also goes into fertilisers for intensive crops, and into cheap protein feed for livestock (which is why intensively reared chickens have a fishy aftertaste). This is an enormous, wasteful industry, and one which environmentalists routinely

protest about. The British Government's panel on sustainable development, chaired by Sir Crispin Tickell, acknowledged the damage done by industrial fishing: even now, Greenpeace is out there in the North Sea to intercept the sand-eel boats. But the EU, for all its pettifoggish fuss about far lesser issues, sets neither quotas nor minimum mesh sizes for the industrial fisheries.

But all this despoliation happens a long way down and out of sight, and involves nothing furry or appealing: so as I wrote angrily in the boat's log once, "The seabed has no vote".

Still, something has happened this spring which makes the seabed's disenfranchisement a lot less important. Environmental groups such as the World Wide Fund for Nature have more or less given up on politicians. While useless governmental agencies shadow-box endlessly about Spanish trawlers, WWF has quietly entered into an agreement with Unilever — the world's biggest seafood supplier — to set up the Marine Stewardship Council, an independent body which intends to "establish a broad set of principles for sustainable fishing and set standards for individual fisheries". It will produce a logo, to allow consumers to see what they are buying.

All right, a talking-shop: but stop yawning in that cynical manner, because there is more. Unilever, a massively rich multinational not famous for its sentimentality, is putting its money where its mouth is. Three weeks ago it pledged that within a year it will completely stop using fish-oil derived from this non-sustainable industrial fishing in European waters. (As for other waters, it is doing rapid research with further boycotts in view.) Unilever is not doing this for mere green credits — the fish-oil it processes does not go into its own brands, such as Bird's Eye anyway — but because fish is a large part of its business worldwide. The company is big and rich: it has no electorate to pander to: it can

afford to take a longer view than either small companies or governments. This view it has taken, and all things considered it would rather face a moderate financial disadvantage now than an ecological disaster in the long run. Its interests coincide with those of the cod and haddock. As users or processors of more than 10 per cent of the world's fish-oil it carries considerable financial clout, and the industry will have to adjust itself to this action.

Unilever is not quite alone. Two days after that announcement, Sainsbury's made another: within a twelvemonth it will have phased out fish-oil from biscuits, cakes, pastries and margarines. It is also involved in the new Marine Stewardship Council. Again, other chains will have to take notice: lest a march be stolen on them; and again, Sainsbury's motive is not piety or PR. Seafood consumption is rising (assisted just now by the prissy public dread of "red meat") and the health of nearby fish stocks is of commercial value to supermarkets on this North Sea island. So it has come about that the environmentalists and their scientists have persuaded these large companies to act more responsibly towards the environment, by appealing to their self-interest.

The principle could extend further and faster than we think. After a decade in which environmental action meant the boom and decline of "green" labels — many of them fairly worthless — and politicians making lavish promises at Rio and doing nothing, these last years of the century are giving birth to a new alliance: a type of ruthless, unsentimental large-scale action which entirely bypasses governments. After years of mutual suspicion and tension, the environmentalists and the industrialists, the sandals and the suits, are working things out together without reference to the windy posturing and nervous indecision of elected politi-

Libby Purves

her latest venture — playing Sue opposite Rufus Sewell's Jude in *Jude the Obscure*. The film has already appalled many Hardy diehards because of its fresh approach, which takes in some full-frontal nudity from Kate. And she admits that her parents may sympathise with the protesters. "I haven't discussed the nudity with them," she said. "No doubt it will come as a bit of a shock."



Kate shock in store

creeping prospect of lady members being called for, so he boarded the train one night in London and placed a sign around his neck saying "Please wake me up at Harpenden". Sadly, he woke up in Bedford once again to find that someone had written "Tee hee" on his sign.

One night when he missed his stop, he boarded the train in Bedford, fell asleep again and woke up back in London. Drastic measures were called for, so he boarded the train one night in London and placed a sign around his neck saying "Please wake me up at Harpenden". Sadly, he woke up in Bedford once again to find that someone had written "Tee hee" on his sign.

AT THE Cannes Film Festival, where film-makers are falling over themselves to put Hardy's novels onto the big screen, the comedy Kate Winslet has been talking of

Fertility, Aids and prejudice

Robert Winston on why he gave IVF to an HIV patient

Some time ago I read a rather silly article in a Sunday newspaper. The director of one of Britain's more fashionable clinics for in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) was quoted as saying, "If we think a couple would make perfectly good parents we wouldn't refuse to treat them." This shallow statement sums up much of what is wrong with the way we currently deploy medical resources. It supposes that anybody, lay person or fertility expert, can decide whether or not a couple would make "perfectly good parents" — and on the mere evidence of a news article or a 20-minute consultation in the highly artificial environment of an IVF clinic.

At 19, Sheila was on heroin, and was heavily influenced by a boyfriend who infected her with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Eight years later, long after kicking her drug habit, and now happily married to Alan, she found she was infertile. She went to her local teaching hospital for fertility treatment. They found that her tubes were blocked, and, during routine screening, that she was HIV-positive.

Since then, she and Alan have practised protected sex, to avoid his getting the virus. The teaching hospital, which had initially been keen to offer her fertility treatment, became uncommunicative. The doctors recommended IVF treatment, but refused to give this themselves because Sheila might develop Aids. Ten years had now passed since she was first infected and gave up drugs. Her GP referred her to me, and I saw her very reluctantly, because I was aware that I would be faced with an immensely difficult decision.

At first, I was convinced that I would not offer her IVF, and told her this firmly. I was concerned that any baby might be infected with the virus and die shortly after birth. Discussion with Alan and Sheila was remarkably easy and without embarrassment, because they were quite open and because they had obviously thought extremely carefully about the decision they were taking. During our second protracted consultation, I found myself being increasingly impressed by them, and by the loving relationship they so obviously shared.

At our fourth meeting together, I became convinced that treatment would be reasonable. I was also aware that I had a duty to respect their autonomy. I told them that I could not promise treatment, because this, it seemed to me, was a matter for my entire team. I told them that I would put this difficult question to a team meeting, hoping to arrive at a favourable collective decision.

I was ill-prepared for the storm. The fraught meeting — which, in a spirit of openness, was filmed — is to be screened on BBC1 on Thursday as part of the series *Making Babies*. I regard the team as an extended family, and we have always taken such decisions together. I found it hard to watch them making a seemingly prejudiced decision.

Yes, HIV is a potential death sentence, and yes, the child might die of Aids. However, Sheila has by now been completely well for ten years, and there might be a cure around the corner. We allow many quite ill women, perhaps with renal or liver disease, to go through pregnancy every week. With Caesarean section to limit cross-infection, the baby would have only a 10 per cent chance of being born infected. Many responsible couples deliberately begin a pregnancy knowing, for example, that they carry a gene for a fatal inherited disease which might give rise to infant death within a year or so of birth. It seems to me this is a gamble that they are entitled to take — in the hope of having normal offspring.

Months later, the members of my team had changed their views. The chairman of our local ethics committee and various senior obstetricians were unanimously in favour of treatment. Informal discussions with the regulatory body also supported our decision, and treatment was started.

Sadly, IVF — paid for with money from a charitable source — failed, but 12 years after first contracting HIV Sheila remains perfectly well. I am sorry that people can be so critical of a decision carefully taken by a deeply loving couple who have thought things through with great maturity. Some people reported in the press have been very censorious, even though they have never met Alan and Sheila and so certainly cannot judge the case at first hand. After all, if Sheila's tubes had not been blocked, she could have conceived without anybody's help and without anybody interfering with her considered opinion.

I have no idea whether any of my patients make good parents — indeed, I am not sure if I am myself. What troubles me most about this arbitrary process — in which we impose our values on others perhaps less articulate or knowledgeable than ourselves — is that we are in a position to do so simply because they suffer from infertility. No other free member of society is vetted before trying for a baby.

Professor Lord Winston is the director of Britain's largest IVF clinic, at Hammersmith Hospital.

PROPOSAL

The right

The "Atlantic" in the name of the Prague last weekend, with the meeting of the European Council of Ministers of the Environment. Many of the ministers were Thatcher, George Bush and other leaders of the world's democracies. The meeting was a success, and the ministers agreed to a declaration of intent to work together to protect the environment. The declaration was signed by the ministers of the European Council, the G7, the G10, the G12, the G14, the G16, the G18, the G20, the G22, the G24, the G26, the G28, the G30, the G32, the G34, the G36, the G38, the G40, the G42, the G44, the G46, the G48, the G50, the G52, the G54, the G56, the G58, the G60, the G62, the G64, the G66, the G68, the G70, the G72, the G74, the G76, the G78, the G80, the G82, the G84, the G86, the G88, the G90, the G92, the G94, the G96, the G98, the G100, the G102, the G104, the G106, the G108, the G110, the G112, the G114, the G116, the G118, the G120, the G122, the G124, the G126, the G128, the G130, the G132, the G134, the G136, the G138, the G140, the G142, the G144, the G146, the G148, the G150, the G152, the G154, the G156, the G158, the G160, the G162, the G164, the G166, the G168, the G170, the G172, the G174, the G176, the G178, the G180, the G182, the G184, the G186, the G188, the G190, the G192, the G194, the G196, the G198, the G200, the 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PROPHETS OF PRAGUE

The right questions, if not all the right answers

The "Atlantic Initiative" was launched at Prague last weekend, with the grand goal of reuniting the European and American branches of the "family of Western civilisation". Many of those involved, including Baroness Thatcher, George Shultz, Helmut Schmidt and leaders of today's Central European democracies, are children of the Cold War, whose steadfastness then has earned them the right to an attentive audience. Their worries are those that ought keep the lights of every Western chancellery burning late.

They accuse "shortsightedness and the failure of statesmanship" of eroding transatlantic political, economic and security links and creating an anti-Western backlash in Central Europe as its concerns are ignored. The evidence is not far to seek. The rifts over Bosnia have barely been papered over, show signs of breaking out again and have generated such ill-temper that Nato's strategic planning for Europe's future is taking second place to piecemeal repair efforts. There is unprecedented vagueness about the depth of America's commitment to European security, and about the strength of Nato's security guarantees to its existing members. Those knocking at the gate have greater cause for doubt.

In Western Europe, the essentially political task of embracing ex-communist democracies has been relinquished to accountants and EU bureaucrats. Almost unnoticed by most Americans, who see European integration as a "good thing" but have little notion of what it means, divisive arguments about monetary union and the revision of Maastricht have again drawn the EU in on itself. The Central Europeans, faced by demands from Brussels for radical changes in their legal and economic systems without any firm date for EU membership as reward, scent bad faith. Haunted by the perils of the post-Habsburg vacuum, they increasingly insist on Nato membership in order to harness America's interest in their successful reintegration with the West.

Nato has promised a reply in December. The case for enlargement is one of principle: that independent nations have the right to choose their own foreign and defence policies.

ies, and allies. The case against is that Europe will not be secure unless Russia is stable and contented within a territory smaller than that which it has ruled for 400 years, with "soft" rather than strategic frontiers. The hard fact is that Russians of all persuasions, democrats as well as nationalists, would see the expansion of Nato to the threshold of the former Soviet Union as a humiliation. The liberals' case for engagement with Western democracy would be undercut if nationalists took this new "threat" to justify severing partnership with the West.

The West knows this perfectly well, which is why the decision has been deferred until after next month's Russian presidential election. Publicly, Western governments maintain that enlargement is compatible with a well-managed security relationship with Russia — and that it will not replace the political fault-lines of Yalta with new ones further east. Privately, many diplomats and military commanders believe nothing of the kind; but they argue that to retreat now would compound the original error by implying acceptance of a Russian veto.

Enlargement must meet two conditions. It must enhance European security, which it will not do if the countries most vulnerable to Russian irredentism — Ukraine and the Baltic states — are denied an umbrella granted to nations whose fears are less grounded in present danger. It must preserve the full weight of Nato's credibility as a deterrent alliance: which means certainty that attack on any member would provoke a US response. The worst of all worlds would be for Nato to sleepwalk into enlargement without positive answers to both these questions. The rising exasperation with the West in Europe's new democracies aids the return of communists, some less reformed than others. The Prague congress did well to focus on this neglected peril. But it is rapid expansion of the EU, not of Nato, that would inexorably link them to the West — and without strategic risk. America needs to pay more attention to the EU debate: EU governments should be ashamed to leave accountants to fill the vacuum of leadership.

CLOWN AND BROKE

Economics and the Treasury dominate politics

The position of Chancellor is not a popular one. Nor does it seem that the Shadow role brings much more in the way of plaudits. Kenneth Clarke and Gordon Brown have both suffered a barrage of criticism from their respective parties as the force of economic orthodoxy has pushed the policies of the two together. The Chancellor is under fire from his Right for refusing to pledge tax cuts. His Shadow faces equally fierce attack led by the Left for failing to promise tax increases. Both hanker openly after a single currency — infuriating colleagues.

The heresy has been compounded by the rhetoric of the two. A Tory occupant of No 11 stresses the importance of "quality public expenditure" — a contradiction to many true Thatchers. Meanwhile, the man who would benefit from the removal of the election espouses the virtues of a "dynamic enterprise economy" — utter treason in the eyes of solid socialists.

This convergence in both substance and speech reflects the dominance of economics over public policy and the commanding role of the Treasury in Whitehall. When politics and ideology must be excluded from all fiscal questions, financial numbers and tedious practicality reign in their place. Low inflation and small borrowing will be the watchword regardless. This may have almost always been true for those in Government; when aspirants in Opposition must apparently follow the same course, this represents the final triumph of the Exchequer.

Despite periodic attempts by Margaret Thatcher to curtail its strength, the Treasury has rebounded in the 1990s. Michael Heseltine could not prevent the concomitant weakening of the DTI. The ceaseless quest to

exercise some control over the monster that is public spending forces politicians of all hues to conform to this institution.

Even the policy disaster of ERM membership could not dent the stranglehold. Public attention has focused on the fact that the Bank of England is more explicitly involved in interest rate questions since sterling's exit. It has been quietly forgotten that the Prime Minister is now excluded from them. This outcome — call it Lawson's revenge — has caused smug satisfaction in certain corridors of power. The ever greater centralisation of power over the last two decades, which Simon Jenkins has lamented so eloquently in words here and elsewhere, is unlikely to be reversed at the ballot box.

The grimes of Great George Street have little to fear from a new Government, then. Gordon Brown has already shown promising parsimony. He can be tutored as a suitable heir to that great socialist dynasty of tight-fisted Chancellors, Philip Snowden, Sir Stafford Cripps and Denis Healey, new Labour has shown no enthusiasm for such schemes-gone-by as the Department for Economic Affairs. A mere "super-Treasury" is planned, capable of "strategic planning" for Whitehall and beyond. Mr Brown and his officials should get on splendidly.

None of this is particularly novel, of course. In 1954 the fiscal approach of the major parties was so similar that the Economist combined Rab Butler and Hugh Gaitskill to produce Mr Butskill. In an appropriate reflection of our recent and perhaps future economic fate the same can be done today. For another year at least we will probably have to live with Mr Clown: after that, and appropriately perhaps, Mr Broke.

THE AULD ALLIANCE

Gaels and Gauls have much in common

Few nations are as fickle with their favours as the Scots. Although in a legal Union with the English, the Scots have occasionally found it uncomfortable being in bed with an elephant. As befits a nation where the meanest Mackay is still a blood relative of a nobleman, the Scots have followed the fashion among aristocratic adulterers and taken a French mistress. The Auld Alliance is the Sunday name for the long flirtation between France and Scotland which, like all liaisons dangereuses, has provided the spice to keep the main marriage stronger.

The alliance has seldom looked stronger. This Thursday President Chirac promises through the Glasgow estate of Easterhouse. On Saturday an Argyllshire chanteuse, Karen Matheson, will represent France in the Eurovision Song Contest. The Gaelic and Celtic seem as refreshingly mixed as a Bruichladdich with a dash of Badoit.

The origin of the late Middle Ages when the French Kings sought to keep their English and the Scots strove to keep their independence. The enemy's enemy soon became something more. Dynastic mingling made the French Mary of Guise into Scotland's Queen as wife of Flodden-felled King James V. Her tragic daughter, Mary

Queen of Scots, was, in turn, briefly bride of the Dauphin Francis. Reformation and Revolution subsequently drove a wedge between Catholic, absolutist, ancien regime France and Protestant, Whiggish, commercial Scotland, but the Scots had a care to keep open the lines of communication.

The Scots kept a continental flavour to the most important aspects of life. While the English drank beer, hock or port the Scots kept their taste for decent Bordeaux. During the 18th century more claret was landed at Leith than any other harbour in Britain. The Scots kept French cellars and also built French homes. While the distinctive domestic architecture of the English is the semi-detached, the urban Scot shares with the Parisian a tendresse for the tenement.

To many in France English literature has a Scots accent. Romanticism in England is the property of poets such as Shelley, Keats and Wordsworth, but abroad the standard-bearers for the sensibility are two Scots, Lord Byron and Sir Walter Scott. Yet the influence of the alliance, while strong, should not be over-stated. Karen Matheson may sing this Saturday in Breton, a sister tongue of Gaelic, but for most Scots songs of Celtic solidarity will remain what they sing at Parkhead when Rangers visit.

British options in cloud-cuckoo-land

From Sir Leslie Fielding

Sir, I take a less sanguine view than Sir William Nicol (letter, May 10) of the options available to Britain if it were to secede from the European Union. To be sure, if I were still the official negotiator of trade agreements in Brussels, I would expect to get the Commission and the Council to offer a seceding UK an industrial free trade deal, on the usual EU terms. But would the UK want it?

No coverage for our exports of (non-beef) agricultural and fish products, confectionery or Scotch whisky; rules of origin problems and possible quantitative restrictions on Japanese Rovers; border taxation and bureaucracy unknown to us inside the Single Market; no free movement of capital or labour or services; no escape from the automatic application of Brussels rules on standards and much else, nor from sectoral or general safeguard clauses against us; no way of attracting (as the Swedes found) significant new foreign direct investment or of retaining what we already have.

Nor would I expect to improve on the above, with the offer of membership of the Customs Union or of the European Economic Area. The latter was originally a mere staging post of EFTA countries for whose full membership the EU was not then ready. Today the resting place only of Norway and Iceland, it is not negotiable as the permanent privileged abode of a seceding major EU member state.

A fortiori, membership of the Customs Union alone would be seen by our partners as unacceptably one-sided — all benefit and no sacrifice or manifest solidarity. Since the UK joined the European Community in 1973, our continued relative economic and military decline has not passed unnoticed; nor have early continental expectations of British political leadership in Europe been very obviously fulfilled.

There is no organised ill will towards us. In 1990, however, we find ourselves a smaller fish in a bigger pool, with our options consequently more confined. The Prime Minister is right that we should not now withdraw to cloud-cuckoo-land (report, April 25).

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE FIELDING
(EU Director General for External Relations, 1982-87),
Sutton Court,
Stanton Lacy, Ludlow, Shropshire,
May 12.

Flying the flag

From Professor Maxwell Hutchinson

Sir, Our lack of enthusiasm for flying the European flag has more to do with good taste than Euro-scepticism. In my view it is a meaningless, ugly rag. Surely the design talent of united Europe can do better than a trivial piece of carnival bunting.

The best buildings in new Europe have been the subject of open competition. So why not let our designers compete and create a flag truly worthy of a flunter?

Yours faithfully,
MAXWELL HUTCHINSON
(President, Royal Institute of British Architects, 1989-91),
Connaught House,
80 Wimpole Street, W1.

Dr Carey's lecture

From the Archbishop of Canterbury

Sir, I was saddened to read your front-page headline of May 10, "Carey attacks Howard over 'wild frontier' policy of revenge".

My Prison Reform Trust lecture raised serious concerns, properly summarised in your report, about the balance of penal policy. I am sorry that your headline gave the false impression of an intemperate personal attack. In particular, it is wrong to suggest that I accused Michael Howard, whose integrity and ability I deeply respect, of a "policy of revenge".

Yours etc,
GEORGE CANTUAR,
Lambeth Palace, SE1,
May 13.

Labour and Whitehall

From Sir Derek Foster, MP for Bishop Auckland (Labour)

Sir, Sue Cameron's article, "Mr Blair and the mandarins: Labour won't talk to Whitehall" (May 9), is based on the assumption that members of the Shadow Cabinet are not yet in formal contact with permanent secretaries.

Let me put the record straight. A substantial number of Labour's front-bench are already in formal contact with permanent secretaries, under the rules agreed with the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister, and more will be shortly. The contacts are of course confidential and we do not therefore give them publicity.

Yours etc,
DEREK FOSTER
(Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster),
House of Commons,
May 9.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Pitfalls in long-term care reforms

From the Executive Director of ARPOSO

Sir, Few things have demonstrated better the lack of vision among current politicians than the debacle which has developed concerning residential care for elderly people, and Stephen Dorrell's suggestion of private insurance (report, May 8; see also reports, Weekend Money, May 11) is, to say the least, optimistic.

The unarticulated but generally accepted ideal of mutual care has become an important component of our social consciousness over the past fifty years. With all its faults, the concept of the welfare state has replaced patriotism as the focus for national identity and has contributed to the breaking down of historical social divisions.

The outcry over payment for residential care in old age is much more than a protest about loss of capital or inheritance, however justified such protest might be. It is far easier to cry out about the size of insurance premiums than to confess to a sense of sorrow and anger at the loss of a social ideal.

Collectivism is expensive but the retreat to individualism and self interest also carries a price. It is not those over the age of 65 — for whom the current debate is largely academic — but generations to follow, who will discover just how high in both economic and social terms that price might be.

Yours faithfully,
D. W. STEELE,
Executive Director, ARPOSO
(Association of Retired Persons Over 50),
Greenoat House,
Francis Street, SW1,
May 11.

From Dr Don Taylor

Sir, As a visiting researcher from the University of North Carolina studying the NHS, I was interested to see

Faulty typecasting

From Professor Jonathan Shepherd

Sir, One group of people about whom "preconceptions need to be thrown into healthy confusion" ("Not my type — or yours", Libby Purves, May 7) is victims of crime. Some of my patients with face injuries have been disadvantaged because of typecasting, to their assailants' benefit.

Investigations have revealed some astonishing caricatures: for example, of most victims as being offenders responsible for their own injuries. Those who have been drinking have been condemned as not deserving NHS treatment.

These beliefs are not just held by some coal-face casualty doctors. During a recent discussion about ways in which casualty department/patient joint working might be improved, one consultant felt it was unethical to report serious violence on the grounds that victims would be "shopped". His assumption was that they were largely injured whilst breaking the law.

Clearly, in the interests of efficiency, it may not be possible to tease out all

Stephen Dorrell's proposal to increase the use of private insurance to cover long-term care expenses.

I fear this strategy is likely to disappoint, as experience from the US suggests that long-term care is simply not a "commodity" that can be dealt with from a traditional insurance standpoint.

My country has a well developed history of depending on private insurance to cover the risks of just about anything, but it is telling that in my home state of North Carolina only 51,000 of 6.5 million people (less than 1 per cent) have long-term care insurance.

This is in spite of over sixty companies that offer such policies in my state and who surely would love to sell more. A state full of irresponsible people? Hardly. Long-term care insurance simply costs too much.

The North Carolina Department of Insurance advises that long-term care insurance is too expensive for those with assets of less than \$100,000 (not including the value of a house). That is just about all of us.

If private insurance companies in the US have not found a way to bring long-term care policies to the market that are actuarially sound and affordable, then I suggest it can't be done. Traditional insurance principles such as insuring your home against fire (a very unlikely event) simply don't apply.

In the absence of a social insurance scheme in the US most have no choice other than to wait and see if their loved ones need long-term care (about one in four of us will); my grandmother does and it costs about \$30,000 per year, paid for by the family. I guess long-term care is our national lottery.

Yours etc,
DON TAYLOR,
16 Sylvanvale Avenue,
Levenshulme, Manchester,
May 11.

the circumstances of violence, and some injuries are sustained whilst committing offences. It is important, though, not to blame victims for their plight. A sympathetic response can help prevent the serious psychological problems about which a quarter go on to suffer.

One of the frustrations in treating those seriously injured in violence is that so few incidents are investigated and even fewer assailants are convicted. A reason for this is that the police label some incidents as "domestic" because of an assumed pre-existing relationship between victim and assailant when, in fact, the attack may have been unprovoked and by a complete stranger.

Less typecasting would result in better treatment for victims and an increase in the chances of offenders being brought to justice.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN SHEPHERD,
University of Wales
College of Medicine,
Department of Oral Surgery,
Medicine and Pathology,
Heath Park, Cardiff.

Ofset security

From Dr N. G. B. Hersey

Sir, You report (May 2; see also letters, May 2, 4) that prospective employees of Camelot are vetted by Ofset's security team, and applications are checked with the National Criminal Intelligence Service, the Police National Computer, the Inland Revenue and the security services.

Why is Ofset given such privileged access to reference sources denied to private companies fitting security systems or employing uniformed guards? Clearly National Lottery profits should not go to organised crime, but the distinct possibility of a known burglar fitting my alarm system, or an ex-convict "guarding" my property, purely because the Home Office does not allow adequate security vetting in these cases, is certainly of equal importance to me personally.

Yours faithfully,
N. G. B. HERSEY,
Appletrees,
Great Churchway, Plymouth.

rary are offered free of charge. On one Friday a few weeks ago the Reading Room processed more than 2,000 applications for books. Rather more, I should imagine, than the Bodleian.

Yours faithfully,
KAY DAVENPORT,
21 Highbury Hill, N5,
May 4.

From Mrs Mary Burns

Sir, My experience is the opposite of Professor Stevens'.

Seeking to renew my reader's ticket, issued in 1939, I (80) recently went to the British Library, taking with me two bad (and ancient) photographs, surplus to some previous similar requirement. To my surprise they proved acceptable, and I was cheerfully given, with no demur or red tape, an immediate renewal until the year 2000.

My field of study is medieval French literature, which, I assume, has not changed much either. All I now need is an up-to-date reading list.

Yours sincerely,
MARY BURNS,
90 Southwood Lane, Highgate, N6,
May 6.

Army chaplains' duty of discretion

From the Right Reverend J. D. G. Kirkham, Bishop to the Forces

Sir, Your report, "MPs support ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces" (May 8), on the select committee meeting of the cross-party Select Committee on the Armed Forces Bill stated that the committee was concerned that it had been alleged that military chaplains had divulged what had been told to them in confidence.

If this has happened at any time it is explicitly contrary to the guidelines on confidentiality issued to all military chaplains by their respective heads.

The position is quite clear and is endorsed by the Chaplain of the Fleet, the Chaplain General and the Chaplain-in-Chief (RAF). Chaplains in HM Forces are commissioned as chaplains and their status as officers in no way prejudices their absolute duty of confidentiality on all matters as priests and ministers of their respective churches. This is recognised by the authorities in all three Services.

If individual chaplains have failed in their duty of confidentiality, for whatever reason, that is a matter of extreme regret and they have contravened their duty as chaplains. The three Heads of Service Chaplaincy would take an extremely serious view of any such contravention, as they would of any perceived or real pressure by the Service authorities on a chaplain to betray what has been told to him or her in confidence, without the express permission of the person concerned.

All military chaplains are aware of this long-standing policy and are conscious of their duty to maintain the inviolability of the trust implicit in a pastoral relationship.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SHERBORNE,
Little Baille, Sturminster Marshall,
Wimborne, Dorset,
May 10.

British theatre

From Mr Charles Morgan

Sir, Your leader ("Flaunt it", May 9; see also letters, May 13) rightly celebrates the new and established talent in British theatre. You could have added that this has been achieved against a background of declining Government support, despite the fact the returns in terms of tax for the Exchequer and overseas earnings are substantially greater than the subsidy provided.

It is ironic that you should choose as an example the Royal Court, certainly a successful theatre but one which I believe has to think about whether it can afford to turn on the photocopy so that everybody has a script.

You suggest if Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister, his policies for the arts may be no different from those of the Conservatives. In that case you should make your call: flaunt it — and support it properly too.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MORGAN,
7 Dorset Road, Talbot Woods,
Bournemouth, Dorset.

High society

From Brigadier C. W. Woodburn

Sir, Unlike Mr Woodall (letter, May 7; see also letters, May 11) I found the announcement of my daughter's engagement today to be at the end of the list of forthcoming marriages, in spite of her becoming engaged to a man who is alphabetically her superior. Well, we Ws know our place.

I then noticed that the order in which the announcements were listed was alphabetically correct for both the gentlemen and the ladies concerned. I have not calculated the chance of this occurring for a list of five engagements. I suspect that it is an even greater number than the anticipated cost of the wedding.

Yours faithfully,
BILL WOODBURN,
Iverna, The Drive,
Bosham, Chichester, West Sussex,
May 7.

From Professor Alec Eden

Sir, The pleasure of Mr Woodall and his wife (née Ulyatt) on the ascension of their daughter up the alphabetical ladder is understandable.

For several years I worked with a Norwegian colleague, Dr Aaslid, who could barely conceal his excitement when his name appeared at the head of the list of references in scientific publications. When I tried to find his number in the Oslo telephone directory I understood why. In his native country his name was written as "Aaslid" — and A is the 29th letter of the Norwegian alphabet.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC EDEN,
The Thatched House,
Mead Road, Torquay, Devon.

London footpath

From Mr Sandy Ellis

Sir, When the London Outer Orbital Path (report, May 4) is completed in 2000, given the present rate of growth in road traffic, might this prove to be not only a more environmentally desirable way of circumnavigating London, but also quicker than the M25?

Yours faithfully,
SANDY ELLIS,
The Hermitage, Sale Green,
Nr Droitwich, Worcestershire.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

May 13: The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon visited the Windsor and Maidenhead District Sports Association for the Disabled and opened a new extension to the clubhouse at Brynwyll Sports Ground, Maidenhead, Berkshire.

His Royal Highness, President and Honorary Life Fellow, Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, this evening attended a Reception at St James's Palace to launch the William Shipley Appeal.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
May 13: The Prince of Wales this afternoon visited Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury, and attended a Reception for Botanic Gardens Conservation International.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 13: The Princess of Wales, Patron, International Spinal Research Trust, this morning attended a send-off of Push 2000 at Kensington Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 13: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal New Zealand Corps of Transport, this afternoon received Brigadier Thomas Leighs, Colonel Commandant of the Corps and

Lieutenant Colonel Ian Gordon, Assistant Defence Advisor (Army), New Zealand High Commission, London.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 13: The Duke of Gloucester this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport at the conclusion of His Royal Highness's visit to Washington DC, United States of America.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
May 13: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning visited Automotive Products Group Limited, Tachbrook Road, Leamington Spa, and was met on arrival by Captain Charles Fetherston-Dille, Royal Navy (Vice-Lieutenant of Warwickshire).

The Duke of Kent was represented by Colonel Sir Ralph Curzon at the Memorial Service for Mr Simon Dyer, which was held at Brompton Oratory, London SW2, this morning.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal will attend the guest lecture to commemorate the Bicentennial of the Legacy of Jenner: Vaccination Past, Present and Future. The Royal Society, 6pm.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust, will open the research Institute, The Royal Free Hospital, Fleet Road, Hampstead, at 1.5pm.

Appointment

Mr Ian Mackay has been appointed High Commissioner to Ghana and, additionally, Ambassador (non-resident) to Togo in succession to Mr David Walker, who will be transferring to a new Diplomatic Service appointment in mid-July.

Legal appointments

Mr Timothy Mort has been appointed to be a circuit judge on the Northern Circuit.

Miss Lesley Millard has been appointed a district judge on the South Eastern Circuit.

Meeting

Royal Overseas League
Lady Olga Maitland, MP, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Overseas League, St James's, at Over-Seas House, St James's, Miss Hazel Ellis presided.

Concert

The Most Rev Luigi Barbarito, Apostolic Nuncio, will attend the concert which will be given by Victoria de Angelis and the Farm Street Choir at Farm Street Church at 7.30pm on May 20.

Survivor of wrecked ship carves memorial to lost sailors

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A SURVIVOR of the *Maria Asumpta*, the sailing ship wrecked against rocks in Cornwall almost a year ago, has completed a sculpture to the memory of 700 sailors lost in wartime.

Philip Chatfield, 37, who was carpenter on the 12th vessel, overcame the trauma of his experience to carve the 21ft, 43-tonne memorial. He overcame physical pain and flashbacks as he chipped away for months in a quarry in Portland.

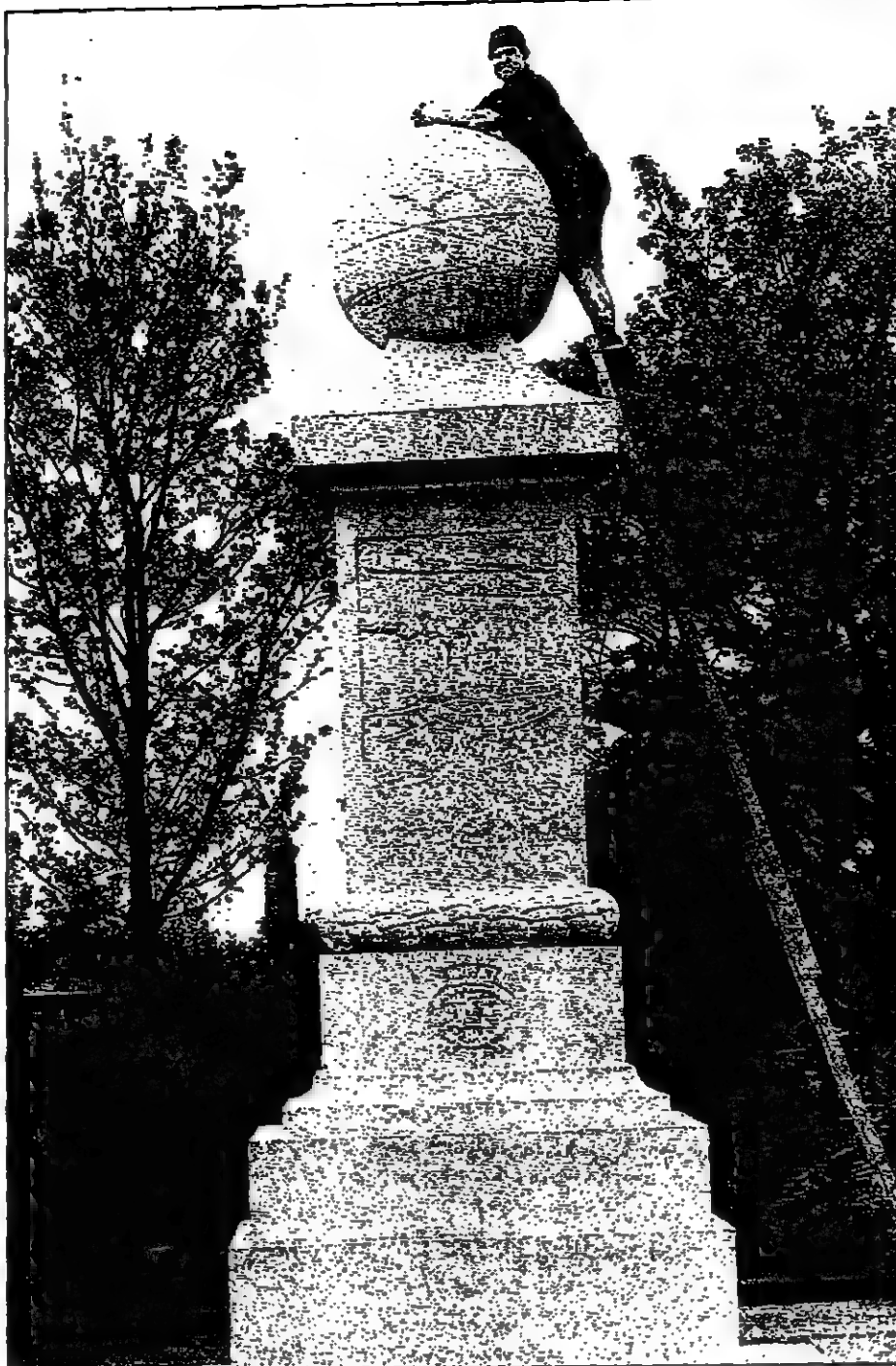
The memorial was unveiled in the port of Barry last week by two merchant seamen who survived torpedo attacks during the last war. The *Maria Asumpta*, built in 1858 and the world's oldest working sailing ship, was wrecked on May 30 last year when her engine failed as she tried to manoeuvre into Padstow harbour. Three crew members died.

Mr Chatfield, of Gower, had just won the commission to carve a war memorial dedicated to the forgotten heroes of Barry, which lost more merchant seamen than any other British port during the two world wars.

He created his winning design, depicting life-size seamen, coils of rope, a liberty ship and a globe, while sailing on the *Maria Asumpta* in 1994. His first cheque, for £8,000, and the sketch plans sank with the vessel.

He was at the bow of the *Maria Asumpta* when she heaved violently, breaking his left forearm, tearing ligaments in his right elbow and badly damaging his right shoulder.

"I do remember being about 10ft under water, holding on to the rock under the



Philip Chatfield with his monument to sailors who died during two world wars

sea and the ship coming in to crush me. I thought that it was it and accepted death. I could have just let go with my left hand and touched the side of the ship. She didn't come in. The sucking away of the water was phenomenal but I held on. Then I was exposed. I scrambled up and ran,

rockhopping." Mr Chatfield's trauma has helped him to understand the grief lingering in Barry, a small town where almost every home lost a loved one at sea during the wars.

His next project is to carve the marble memorial for the *Maria Asumpta* in Padstow.

"I am hoping that will lay the ghost of the ship for me."

The case against Mark Litchfield, 35, of Boxley, Kent, the skipper charged with manslaughter of three crew who died when the *Maria Asumpta* was wrecked, has been adjourned until May 31 by Bodmin magistrates.

Dinners

Furniture Makers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriff, attended a dinner of the Furniture Makers' Company held last night at the Mansion House. Mr Hugh Jocelyne, Master, presented the Claxton Stevens Prize to Mr Richard Williams for the most outstanding piece of furniture submitted in the Craft Guild Mark Jury in 1995. Mr Edward Brett, Senior Warden, and the Bishop of Bedford also spoke. The Masters of the Carpenters', Painter-Stainers', Upholsters' and Turners' Companies and the Prime Warden of the Basketmakers' Company were among those present.

The Royal Society and the Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Butterworth, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held with the Royal Society last night at 6 Carlton House Terrace. Sir Ron Dearing, Professor Alan Smithers and Dr Michael Young were the speakers.

RAF Club
Lord Quinton was the guest of honour at a dinner of the Royal Air Force Club Dining Society held last night at 128 Piccadilly. Wing Commander W.A. Beaumont, president of the society, presided. Air Commodore H.A. Probert also spoke.

Athenaeum
Professor Sir Frederick Crawford was the principal speaker at a talk dinner held last night at the Athenaeum. Lord Walton of Deichman was in the chair.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Gainsborough, painter, Sudbury, Suffolk, 1727; Robert Owen, social reformer, Newtown, Powys, 1771; Otto von Guericke, physicist, Magdeburg, Germany, 1888; Eric Morecambe, comedian, Morecambe, 1926; Bobby Darin, singer, songwriter and actor, New York City, 1936; Edward Jenner carried out the first successful vaccination against smallpox, 1796. The independent state of Israel was proclaimed, 1948.

Marriages

Dr L.J. Howes, FRCA, and Miss G.J. Scott

The marriage took place on Saturday, May 11, 1996, at the Church of St John the Evangelist, Slough, Gloucestershire, between Jonathan, youngest son of Dr and Mrs P. Howes, of Waresley, Cambridgeshire, and Gaynor, second daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Scott, of Slough. Mr Richard Wigdahl was best man.

Dr F. Zaniewski and Miss R.M. Elsdon

The marriage took place on Saturday, May 11, 1996, at St Laurence's Church, Down, Wiltshire, between Dr Frank Zaniewski and Miss Rosemary Elsdon, MBE.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N. Gray and Miss A.J. Brown
Geoffrey and Valerie Brown, of Blackheath, London, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Amanda, to Mr Nick Gray, of Biddenden, Kent.

Mr G.R.D. Lanning and Miss C.E. Morley
The engagement is announced between Guy, youngest son of the late Mr C.E. Lanning and of Mrs Phyllis Lanning, of Richmond, Surrey, and Candice, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Morley, of Prison, Bath.

Luncheon

Baroness Elles
Baroness Elles was the sponsor at a fundraising luncheon held yesterday at the House of Lords for the Greater London Fund for the Blind.

Birthdays today

Miss Francesca Annis, actress, 51; Mr David Ashby, MP, 50; Mr Richard Bland, MEP, 52; Mr Hastings Banda, Life President of Malawi, 94; Mr Chay Blyth, yachtman, 50; Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, 71; Mr Denis Cannan, dramatist, 71; Sir David Cooksey, chairman, Local Government Commission for England, 52; Mr Phil Drabble, broadcaster, 52; Sir Owen Green, former chairman, BTR, 71; Baroness Hogg, former head of the Prime Minister's policy unit, 50; Mr R.D.C. Hubbard, chairman, Powell Duffryn, 62; Mr G.R. Lister, chief executive, Bradford and Bingley Building Society, 59; Mr George Lucas, film director and producer, 52; Lord MacLaine of West Green, 54; Mr Martin Mogg, former Governor, Durham prison, 50; Mr Edward Newman, MEP, 43.

Canon John Oates, rector, St Brude's, Fleet Street, 66; Miss Stan Phillips, actress, 62; Sir Penelope Rhodes, diplomat, 71; Sir Adam Ridley, executive director, Hambros Bank, 54; Sir Leslie Sharp, former Chief Constable, South Yorkshire, 62; Mr Anthony Souter, chief executive, Radio Authority, 49; Mrs Patricia Turner, trade unionist, 69; Judge Adrienne Utell-Hamilton, 64.

Requiem Mass

Mr Peter Stemp, Mr Kenneth Fairclough (also representing the AA Foundation for Road Safety Research) and Mrs Fairclough and many other past and present members of staff.

Vicount and Viscountess Slim, Lord Brabourne of Tara, Lord Brougham and Vaux, Lord Mowbray and Stourton, Lord and Lady Pilkington, Baroness Steadman, Lord and Lady Strathcarron, Lord Walton of Dechmont, the Hon Peter Benson (Coopers and Lybrand), the Hon John Donovan, the Hon Charles Martyn-Hemphill, the Hon Simon O'Sullivan, the Hon Colin Pilkington, the Hon Mrs Rowland, the Hon Mrs Appleyard-List, Sir Geoffrey Errington, Sir Patrick and

Lady Brown, Sir Peter Bonfield (BT), and Lady Bonfield, Sir Peter and Lady Cazelet, Lady Scott, Sir Patrick and Lady Sheehy, Sir Thomas Risk, Sir Kenneth Carlisle, MP, Mr Kevin Gardner and Baroness Gardner of Parkes, Mr Nicholas and Lady Bridget Oppenheim.

Mr Peter Bottomley, MP, Mr Hugh Dykes, MP, Mr Ian Mills, MP, Mr Steven Morris, MP, Mr Richard Tracey, MP, Mr Gary Walker, MP, the Mayor and Mayoress of Basingstoke and Deane, the Mayor and Mayoress of Richmond, Judge and Mrs David Smith.

Mr Geoffrey Addison (Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund), Mrs Adele Bliss (British Tourist Authority),

Mrs Moran Barton (Brooklands Museum Trust), Brigadier David Canterbury (representing the founder of the Montagu Motor Car Museum), Mr John Bridgman (Office of Fair Trading), Mr Christopher Bullock (Institute of Advanced Motorists), Mr Nigel Clarke (Institute of Management) and Mrs Clarke, Mr Brian Colley (Road Haulage Association), Mr Christopher Gorrington (All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club).

The Assistant Chief Constable of the Thames Valley Police, Mr Neil Johnson (RAC), Mr Roger King (Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders), Mr Derek Lindop (Retail Motor Industry Federation), Mr Jeremy Logie (British Hospital Association), Mr George McCulloch (Royal Scottish Automobile Club), Mr Max Mosley (Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile), Mr Paul Nouwen

(Alliance Internationale de Tourisme), Mr Ken Rogers (Guild of Motoring Writers), the Master of the Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers and other members of the lobby.

Mr Jim Stevenson (British Cement Association), Mr Bill Threlfall (Hillingham Club) and Mrs Threlfall, Mr Roy Ward (Institute of the Motor Industry), Mr Trevor Watson (Caravan Club), the Chief Constable of Surrey and Chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers' Traffic Committee, and Mrs Williams, Mr John Wootton (Transport Research Laboratory).

Mr Jack Parker (Institution of Highway and Transportation), Mr Paul Everitt (British Road Federation) other representatives from commerce and industry in the United Kingdom and overseas and many friends.

BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

ABADI - On May 7th at the Portland Hospital, to a daughter, a sister for Samuel and Sarah.

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OBITUARIES

NNAMDI AZIKIWE

Nnamdi Azikiwe, the first President of Nigeria and one of the earliest leaders of the nationalist movement in West Africa, died on May 11 aged 91. He was born on November 16, 1904.

FOR MANY years Nnamdi Azikiwe pointed the way towards independence, exerting great influence as a newspaper editor and as the founder and leader of one of Nigeria's major political parties. He thought nationally at a time when Nigeria was still a collection of regions rather than a nation. When independence eventually came in 1960, however, Azikiwe, who had refused office as a federal minister, preferring the post of President of the Senate, was already a father figure. A month after independence he became the country's first indigenous Governor-General and, when Nigeria became a republic three years after independence, Azikiwe was chosen as its first President.

He was a man of strong views, pungently expressed, aptly described by Dame Margery Perham in a broadcast in 1965 as a "strange, brilliant, protean character from the Ibo forests". Azikiwe was the son of a clerk in the Nigeria Regiment. Although the family were Ibos from Onitsha, Azikiwe senior was working in Zungeru, in Northern Nigeria, as a clerk on Lugard's staff, when his son was born. As a child, therefore, the young Azikiwe spoke Hausa. At the age of eight he was sent to Onitsha where he learnt Ibo. Later, as a student in Lagos, he became fluent in Yoruba, the other principal language of Nigeria, and many years later, as head of state, this command of the three languages was to be a most valuable asset.

The young Benjamin Azikiwe — who later changed his name to Nnamdi — attended Roman Catholic and Anglican primary schools in Onitsha and the Wesleyan Boys' High School, Lagos, where he continued his studies at the Hope Waddell Training Institute in Calabar. Among the influences which inspired him in his student days were, by his own account, Marcus Garvey and his Black Zionism, and the Rev Dr J. E. K. Aggrey.

After a short period as a Civil Service clerk in Lagos, Azikiwe went to the United States in 1925 with the help of £300 which his father had saved for him. There, at the age of 21, he entered Storer College, in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, where he was nicknamed "Zik" by his fellow students. It was a name which stuck even when he was President.

His early years in America were difficult and at one point he attempted suicide. To pay his way through college he did a variety of menial jobs, working as a miner, porter, dishwasher and professional boxer. He matriculated at Howard University in Washington but lack of

money caused him to move to Lincoln University, Pennsylvania. At Lincoln he obtained an MA in political science. From the University of Pennsylvania he obtained an MSc in anthropology. He was also the holder of the certificate in journalism of the Teachers' College, Columbia University, and in 1930 edited the *Columbia University Summer Session Times*.

During a seminar at Pennsylvania, Azikiwe impressed Professor Malinowski of the London School of Economics, present as a visitor, and at his suggestion later became a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute — an interesting comparison with another African leader, Jomo Kenyatta, to whose book *Facing Mount Kenya* Malinowski contributed a foreword.

On his way back from the United States Azikiwe visited Britain, and in 1934 applied to compete, for Nigeria, in the British Empire Games, following a successful career in American college athletics. He was barred from the competition after protests from the South African team, and, shocked by this example of colour prejudice, he decided to give up his name Benjamin, changing it legally to Nnamdi. In later years he became president of the Nigerian Amateur Athletic Association. In 1938, writing in his paper, the *West African Pilot*, Azikiwe claimed that from athletics he had learnt to suffer in silence. "I have always looked at most of my life's problems as problems which confront a milier in a mile race."

With his American degree behind him, Azikiwe applied for jobs in the education departments of four colonies. Neither there, nor in Liberia, Ethiopia or Turkey, was he successful, and in 1934 he moved to Accra to edit a new paper, the *African Morning Post*. Three years later he was convicted of sedition for an article printed in his paper. The conviction was reversed on appeal, and Azikiwe moved to Lagos, where he founded his own paper, the *West African Pilot*. Its motto was: "Show the light and the people will find the way." Azikiwe brought to West Africa the techniques of modern journalism which he had learnt in the United States. The *Pilot*, and an associated chain of provincial dailies, were a potent force in Nigerian politics.

In 1944 Azikiwe was one of the founders of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (when the Southern Cameroons became part of the Federal Republic of Cameroon) the NCNC, though keeping the same initials, changed its name to National Convention of Nigerian Citizens. He was its general secretary until 1946, when he became president of the party on the death of Herbert Macaulay.

His aim was independence and the creation of a sense of nationhood. In spite of his personal wealth and business



success, his was an appeal to the masses. In practice, however, the NCNC drew its main strength from Iboland, and it increasingly became the party of Eastern Nigeria — regional, like the other political parties of Nigeria. Azikiwe himself, after a short period in the Western Nigeria Legislature, was Premier of the East from 1954 to 1959, relinquishing the post to Dr Michael Okpara when he moved to the Senate. As Governor-General and President, he naturally had to give up active leadership of the NCNC.

It was not easy for Azikiwe, as a former political leader, to play the behind-the-scenes role which his position as Governor-General and later as President demanded. Although he remained an influential figure in the East, however, he performed his new duties with impartiality, considerable flair and a real feeling for the unity of Nigeria.

The election of December 1964 produced a serious conflict between the

Northern People's Congress and the NCNC, which boycotted the polling booths. Azikiwe's sympathies. It was clear, lay with the NCNC and the East in a dispute that threatened to break the federation. For a day or so Nigeria's future hung in the balance. It was widely known that the President had prepared a broadcast to the people. In the event, his sense of constitutional propriety prevailed, and he called on Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa of the NPC once again to form a government. Of all Azikiwe's services to Nigeria, this action in 1964 may be judged by historians to be the greatest.

But the political situation did not improve — although Zik continued as President and his party remained in the Federal Coalition Government. The disaffection of the NCNC increased. In the Western Region election of October 1965, the NCNC, as part of the United Progressive Grand Alliance fought open-

ly on the side of the opposition Action Group. As it lost in what was widely thought to have been a rigged election, the region descended into violence. Azikiwe left the country on a long tour, part vacation, part medical leave, part expression of concern and apprehension. Thus he was out of the country when the coup of January 15, 1966, unseated him, ushering in a period of military rule and civil war.

Although Zik was never again to hold high office, he was widely suspected of having had some sympathies with the Ibos who staged the coup, and the Ibodominate regime of General Ironi which in fact took over, detaining the majors. Although the coup claimed national objectives, the taint of ethnic ambition hung over the Ironi regime, provoking anti-Ibo riots and massacres, and a counter-coup later in the year. In all this Zik, with his distaste for violence, lay very low. The regime in Eastern Nigeria of Colonel Ojukwu, occasionally tried to manipulate him but he counselled caution and was opposed to secession.

It was only after the region broke away from the Nigerian federation in May 1967 under the name of Biafra that it was possible to mobilise Zik, somewhat reluctantly, to speak out for the secessionist cause. Although later he said he never really meant it, the Biafrans were able to use his considerable international prestige and contacts to help to secure recognition for the secessionist state. He was among those whose influence counted in persuading President Nyerere of Tanzania and President Kaunda of Zambia into recognition, as well as, bizarrely, President Duvalier of Haiti. It was clear that Zik had little stomach for such activity, however, and he was in the group which met in Paris in September 1968 and which unsuccessfully sent a message to Ojukwu advising him to embark on serious negotiations with Lagos to end the war, after the French had told them there were limits to what they would do for them.

This enraged Ojukwu and no more was heard of the group. In July the next year Azikiwe was spotted passing through Lagos airport en route to Liberia and was persuaded to go and meet General Gowon, who persuaded him to stay. Although uncomfortable at being used as a propaganda weapon, his conversion was real enough, a clear indication of the way the wind was blowing. Indeed, it is hard to imagine that he had ever considered himself as anything but a Nigerian.

Because of the great sentimental support he still retained among the Ibos, Zik's defection was one more nail in Biafra's coffin. Once the war was over, he faded into the political background, and for eight years lived in his adopted home town of Nsukka, occasionally travelling, keeping his political contacts up. There

was uncertainty, however, as to whether he would really take up the political cudgels again. In spite of the planned return to civilian rule of the late 1970s.

There are those who say it was only on learning that his old antagonist Chief Obafemi Awolowo (whom Zik blamed for splitting the nationalist movement in the early 1950s) was definitely running for the presidency that Zik decided to come out of retirement. He did so with the help of a young Ibo businessman called Jim Nwobodo, who managed to inject Zik into the leadership of one of the newly formed political parties, the Nigerian People's Party (NPP). Although some of the NPP's northern support split off, Zik's own political renaissance at the age of 74 ensured the party's base in the two states, Anambra and Imo, which, since 1976 made up the Ibo heartland. Nonetheless, in 1979 he reached only third place, well behind Shagari, who became President, and Awolowo. Echoing the action of 20 years before, the NPP went into coalition with the ruling NPN, and the old cycle of Nigerian politics seemed to recommence. This time, however, Zik took no offence.

In 1983, with an alliance between him and Awolowo's party again in the offing, because of discontents at being a junior and impotent partner in the coalition, there seemed to be a real chance of Zik giving up the struggle in favour of Awolowo, who was as determined as ever to become President. After a moving exchange of letters ("Dear Zik", "Dear Awo") between the two Grand Old Men of Nigerian politics, which set out their intertwined political histories, the strenuous call of politics seems once more to have overcome him. Some said it was pressure from his Ibo supporters, who still saw him as the best vote-winner they had: some said it was the thought that Awo might actually become President this time. Although one politician rather unfairly described Zik's political career as having been "consistently inconsistent", he had always been consistent in one thing — stopping Awolowo. Once again, he came a poor third in the 1983 elections, and left the political arena altogether. When Awolowo died in 1986, Zik was genuinely moved at not just the passing of an old enemy but of one of the great figures of southern Nigeria.

In his long retirement Zik enjoyed one diversion. In November 1969, thanks to the misplaced zeal of *The Daily Telegraph*, he became one of the few public figures able to read his own obituary. The reaction of this former journalist was not, though, a particularly charitable one. "I feel ashamed," he said, "to belong to a profession that could make that kind of blunder." It was a proof perhaps that even in old age he had not lost his capacity to sting.

Nnamdi Azikiwe is survived by his wife and children.

JOAN THIRKETTLE

Joan Thirkettle, ITN news reporter, died from cancer on May 11 aged 48. She was born on September 14, 1947.

JOAN THIRKETTL was a general reporter for ITN for 22 years, later specialising in law reporting. For many television viewers she will be remembered simply as the woman with windswept hair, who stood sentry outside countless courtroom buildings for *News at Ten*. But to fellow journalists, she was the con-

summate professional working journalist.

A naturally modest and private woman, Joan Thirkettle never let her own personality intrude between the viewer and the story she was reporting. Nor did the question of being female ever cloud her judgment on what sort of story she should cover. She was a general reporter who had a generalist's without being a specialist, and who enjoyed the challenge of making herself mistress of a subject in a few hours. Her ability

to rise to the most nightmarish scenario was best seen on the morning of John Smith's sudden death from a heart attack in 1994, when the Labour leader had been rushed to Bart's Hospital. ITN was unprepared for such an eventuality as was the rest of Fleet Street, but they rounded up a crack news team who put out an excellent two-hour special on the drama as it unfolded. Joan Thirkettle reported live from Bart's, and the report won an award from the Royal Television Society.

As an interviewer, Joan Thirkettle had the useful ability to gain the confidence of people who, for whatever reason, did not normally like to be interviewed. For instance, in 1990 she pulled off a rare interview with Salman Rushdie — a feat in those days when the writer was not often seen in public. The dressmaking Emanuel talked to her in 1981, at the time of the Royal Wedding, when seemingly half the country was consumed with curiosity about the design of Lady Diana

Spencer's wedding dress. Later she talked to the Prince of Wales about his village in Dorset — Poundbury — and in 1990 interviewed Norma Major, who was then very reluctant to step into the limelight as the new Prime Minister's wife.

One of her great strengths was her total lack of vanity. Reporters are not often on camera for more than 15 seconds during a report, and there was not time, in Joan Thirkettle's opinion, for the public to notice particularly what they were wearing. Besides which, she preferred to stay out of sight wherever possible: "I'm not important at all. The story is what's important and the pictures that tell it."

Richard Branson knew her professionally for years. He first met her when he was selling records, and when she was briefly working as a talent spotter for *Ready Steady Go*. Later their daughters attended the same school. She reported on his attempts to break the speed record for crossing the Atlantic — she was there on the *Isles of Scilly* when the first *Challenger* sank beneath the waves some miles short of its objective in 1985. Five years later she was one of the group of reporters who waited patiently with him in Japan for the favourable weather conditions needed to cross the Pacific in a hot-air balloon. Branson was amused to surprise her, one day shortly before take-off, in the process of brushing down his advance obituary notice.

Joan Elizabeth Thirkettle



to make a conscious decision to stick to general news reporting.

There were two sides to her as a reporter — ferret-like and rational in her investigative skills, compassionate by nature — and this was reflected in her choice of stories. She reported sensitively on the famine in Ethiopia in the mid-1980s; and in 1987 she uncovered the story of Stephen Wilshire, an autistic boy with remarkable artistic talents. It was she who persuaded her producers to let her take him to New York, and to explore his abilities in more depth. Stephen Wilshire astounded observers there by executing a set of detailed sketches of Manhattan skyscrapers from memory.

But more recently she specialised on the labyrinthine complexities of criminal law and appeals. Her last on-screen report was in February this year. She had been ill with cancer for six months.

Joan Thirkettle had some unexpected interests outside news reporting. She occasionally presented music programmes for Classic FM, wrote short stories and studied natural history. She lived in that part of Camden Town in north London which is densely populated with writers.

Her marriage to Jonathon Wallace — grandson of the thriller writer Edgar Wallace — ended in divorce in 1986. Thereafter she juggled professional commitments with the demands of single parenthood. She is survived by her son and daughter.

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MR CHURCHILL MEETS THE HOUSE
The House of Commons met yesterday
to greet the new Government, and
showed by the ring in its cheers both for
the incoming Prime Minister and for his
predecessor that it was well satisfied
with the rapid completion of a front
uniting all parties. It had only one duty
to perform, and Mr Churchill's brief
speech, calling it to that duty, was in
every way worthy of a war leader.
Just as Garibaldi in his darkest hour
offered his followers only "hunger,
thirst, forced marches, battles and
death," and found men willing to suffer
these things in order that tyranny should
perish, so Mr Churchill yesterday
offered the nation only "blood, toil and
tears" until the same high purpose
is achieved; and he, too, will inspire a
whole nation to sustain and support him
in the struggle.
Again, just as Clemenceau in the
darkest hour of the last war gave France
new resolve with the phrase which rang



ON THIS DAY

May 14, 1940

A leading article drew parallels
from history and underlined with
figures the strength of Churchill's
all-party support.

through Parliament and the nation: "Je
fais la guerre," so Mr Churchill yester-
day defined the spirit of his Government
in the single phrase "to wage war." With
that spirit no one can doubt that
Government and nation will achieve
victory.
The degree to which the nation is
behind the Government was shown in
more than the vote of 381 to nil by which
the House of Commons endorsed its
formation yesterday, and by more than
the utterances of every responsible

member during the debate. At the
Labour Party conference the action of
Labour leaders in joining the Government
was endorsed by 2,413,000 votes to
170,000, and Mr Attlee has therefore
received in the fullest measure the
mandate for which he asked. Undoubt-
edly the nation is happier and stronger
now that its leaders of every party have
agreed to share in the responsibility for
the conduct of the war, and as much
credit is due to those who have uncom-
plainingly accepted a smaller share of
responsibility as to those who have
accepted their full share for the first time.
One word of warning, uttered by the
Prime Minister yesterday, may be
underlined. "We have before us," he
said, "an ordeal of the most grievous
kind." A battle on the scale now engaged
cannot be expected to pursue from first to
last a course which will earn the
Government applause. It is not applause
which either they or the men in the thick
of the battle want. It is unwavering and
unflinching endurance both in good
times and in bad.

As President Chirac begins a state visit to Britain, *Times* writers in London and Paris take stock of his influence at home and abroad

When President Chirac arrives today, he will have a pleasant surprise. Britain is one of the few countries where the French leader's honeymoon has already lasted a year, and shows no sign of going sour. Indeed Britain is currently in the middle of a periodic infatuation with all things French. Not only is Eric Cantona Britain's favourite footballer, but an enthusiasm for its new President has replaced years of suspicion when François Mitterrand was in the Elysée.

The change is partly personal and partly political. Jacques Chirac was immediately perceived here as an Anglophile. He speaks English; he has a bluff, hearty manner; he seemed to find the alliance with Germany too suffocating and wanted to do more business with Britain.

Some of these perceptions are true; others are wishful thinking.

For the fact is that John Major desperately needed a new friend in Europe, and Chirac seemed to be the answer. Mr Major wanted to show his critics that his middle-of-the-road view of Europe was gaining ground abroad. M Chirac, he believed, was a fellow conservative who shared the Gaullist conception — now so popular in Britain — of a Europe *des patries*. Here was a man who was more pro-American than any previous French leader, who was determined to take France back into Nato, who chose the British model for his proposed reform of French defence and who had the courage to attempt the radical social restructuring that Margaret Thatcher carried out here.

Anglo-French relations had been in need of repair. The Mitterrand years, when France was leading the push for a more closely integrated Europe, were the low point: Margaret Thatcher, angered at being patronised by President Giscard, had little time for the incoming Socialist President and increasingly saw the Paris-Bonn axis as inimical to British interests. She believed Paris was the main basis of support for Jacques Delors, then European Commission President, and was the driving force behind giving greater power to Brussels. She was intensely suspicious of M

ANGLO-FRENCH RELATIONS

Mitterrand's socialism, personality and intentions. France, Britain believed, was intent on reducing American influence in Europe, belittling the effectiveness of Nato and pursuing its own national interest abroad.

France, in turn, saw Mrs Thatcher as a strident English nationalist determined to undermine French trade and economic policies, wreck the common agricultural policy and halt all EU attempts at political integration.

The nadir of trust came when M Mitterrand paid a state visit a decade ago and some of his security guards were accused of

trying to smuggle arms into Britain — an attempt played down by the embarrassed French as a way of testing British security.

Some of the suspicion of M Mitterrand lingered after Mr Major came to power, though increasing military co-operation in Bosnia and the reunification of Germany brought London and Paris closer. There were shared concerns about German policy.

The atmosphere improved on M Chirac's election. Mr Major hoped that his overt support for French nuclear testing would win political points in Paris, and France in return would come to

Britain's aid in the crucial debates on the Maastricht Two treaty. Britain does not want to be isolated again. Although it disagrees with Paris on monetary union, there are areas where the two are close: the primacy of the Council of Ministers, the need for a more effective common foreign policy, the wish to limit the powers of the Brussels Commission and the European Parliament.

But M Chirac has found that France's interests are, inevitably, tied to Germany. There is no sign that France is taking a more "sceptical" view of Europe or that it is ready to support Mr Major in the inter-governmental conference. Nevertheless, relations are excellent with regard to defence.

Bosnia has brought the two closer together. It led to a new respect for each other's Armed Forces and a co-ordination of their UN roles. Shielded from publicity, the Bilateral Commission, set up in 1992, has brought Europe's two nuclear powers together not only in defence concepts but in such vital matters as targeting strategy.

For Mr Major, this co-operation is an important sign that not all relationships in Europe have to go through Brussels. That is why Britain moved swiftly to invite M Chirac on a state visit where, in London, he will celebrate his first year in office. Parliament will listen to him with respect and the Queen will be the first to offer congratulations.

MICHAEL BINYON
Diplomatic Editor

The bulldozer gains ground

PROFILE OF THE PRESIDENT

The strikes, bombs, international outrage over nuclear testing, flailing franc, lagging economy and dwindling opinion polls that marked M Chirac's first few months as President of France would have browbeaten a less confident man. But, as befits his nickname "Le Bulldozer", France's Gaullist President has jolted over the bumps, emerging in better shape than many would have predicted.

A year after his election, M Chirac can raise perhaps two cheers: the franc is stronger, his popularity is rising and the nuclear truces and last summer's terrorist bombing campaign are fading from memory.

Even his toughest critics are forced to admit that M Chirac has grown into the job. "Suddenly Chirac feels himself to be President," observed the left-leaning *Liberation* news-

paper. The *entente* between Britain and France is more cordial than it has been for years, thanks in part to what M Chirac's advisers say is the President's "special affection" for Britain.

The impetuosity that marked M Chirac's first few months in office has given way to a

advance made his Government a sitting target.

M Chirac came to power promising to cut taxes, reduce unemployment and mend France's "social fabric". For the first few months, the Government appeared almost paralysed by the contradictions of its campaign pledges,

but last October the crunch came when M Chirac gravely announced that fiscal austerity was the order of the day. The rest, he implied, would have to wait.

While Alain Juppé was taking the flak for the programme to cut social security spending (much of which had to be jettisoned), M Chirac kept a low profile.

The Elysée has made good use of the Chirac style — informal, loquacious and charming — by ensuring that key statements are made directly to the nation, either through articles written by M

'Even his toughest critics are forced to admit that Jacques Chirac has grown into the job'

more considered approach, while the campaign platform that seemed to offer all things to all men has been drastically streamlined.

Critics, including many within the ruling coalition, believed that M Chirac's decision to advertise the resumption of nuclear testing so far in



An old hand at marketing: the Elysée has made good use of the Chirac style — informal, loquacious and charming

Chirac in the French press or on television.

Where the late François Mitterrand appeared an aloof figure, M Chirac has the knack of seeming both dignified and personable. His address to the nation after the death of his predecessor and

long-time rival was regarded as a *tour de force*.

Thanks partly to a concerted effort to get the President into the countryside, "La France profonde", M Chirac's popularity ratings have begun to climb in recent months. But the latest polls reveal a telling

paradox: most voters find their President likeable and capable, but remain dubious of his policies. As his opponents are quick to point out, so far from falling, taxes and unemployment have risen during his first year.

By pursuing a high-profile

and fiercely independent foreign policy, M Chirac is treading, self-consciously, in the footsteps of General de Gaulle. The President's unilateral approach to the Bosnia conflict, his selective approach to the Schengen open-borders agreement and French diplo-

macy in the Middle East have not always won the plaudits of France's allies, but such initiatives are clearly intended to show that, in the words of a senior adviser, "France is back".

His personal standing is gradually improving, yet M Chirac is not yet out of the woods. The Government's determination to meet the criteria for a single European currency by slashing France's deficits to 3 per cent of GDP by next year remains a tantalisingly distant target. Last week, in an article in *Le Monde*, M Chirac gave warning that further belt-tightening would be necessary.

Today the objective is clear: to reduce further public spending, since this is the only way to cut taxes from 1997 without making deficits larger," he wrote, adding that "the European Union must have a real identity, a single currency and a common policy on trade, foreign affairs and security."

There are obstacles ahead, not least the prospect of legislative elections in two years, but there is no sign that "Le Bulldozer" is running out of steam as he embarks on the second year of his seven-year term. "I have the will," he said recently, showing some of the steel beneath a velvety exterior. "But I also have the time."

BEN MACINTYRE
Paris Correspondent



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Patricia is wearing Colour Endure Stay-On Lipcolour in Wine and Spice N° 605.

KATE MUIR MEETS FASHION MOGUL PIERRE CARDIN



Pierre Cardin on the balcony of his office in Paris, hub of his empire, overlooking the presidential Elysée Palace

Like many successful retailers, Pierre Cardin lives above the shop. The only difference is that his home overlooks the French President's palace, and the business downstairs has a turnover of more than a £1 billion a year.

Cardin is the French label that ate the world. Long before the politicians across the road in the Elysée Palace realised that the Iron Curtain was becoming rusty, and the Chinese economically frisky, Cardin was already selling fashion where governments feared to tread.

He has been in China for 20 years and has a hundred shops there — ironic, really, because it was Cardin who made the Mao jacket trendy

'With the Internet, designs can be copied within hours'

on the fashion catwalks years ago.

"I've been here 51 years and I've seen eight Presidents come and go," says Cardin, gesturing across the chestnut trees of the elegant Avenue Marigny to the Elysée. In that time, his empire has gone from designing theatre costumes to a brand name that sells clothes, luggage, hotels, Maxim's restaurants and even own-brand sardines across 146 countries.

At 74, he is now the grand old man of couture, although when he started designing in the 1950s he was seen as the

The man who styled the world



Cardin discussing new fashion fabrics in his workshop

enfant terrible. While the haute couturiers were still selling to a tiny A-list of clients, Cardin decided to mass-produce some of his designs and brought prêt-à-porter to the

people. "Of course, the *Chambre Syndicale* (the exclusive couturiers' association) threw me out. Then a few years later they realised it worked and were begging me to be an honorary member."

Cardin saw the future long before his rivals, putting world domination before exclusivity. He realised that licensing his name to be used on approved products like perfumes and scarves — there are now nearly 1,000 — would result in extraordinary profits. Americans, such as Calvin Klein, kept rather late on the housewares to underwear bandwagon which Cardin set rolling. Ask people in shopping malls in Midwestern America to name a French designer, and polls show

Pierre Cardin is the most familiar brand.

"I can live my life entirely within my empire," says Cardin, without a hint of modesty. "I can sleep on my sheets in my hotel, dine in my restaurant, wear my own clothes, sit on my sofa."

He points to the gold PC logo on the leather sofa in his offices. He is wearing his near-uniform of grey flannels and blue Cardin blazer.

"Other people may go out to eat, to hotels, to play golf, but all that is part of my business."

He is a workaholic, fond of 12-hour days, including weekends. After the interview he rushes round his workshops and offices, showing off cascades of designs, bolts of silk and treasured members of staff.

He leaps up on the window-sill when the photographer asks him to pose for a picture. He ought to be a pensioner but he has the energy level (and the attention span) of a two-year-old. He is like a bee in his own offices: buzzing, landing, tasting, and buzzing off again.

After days of administrative decisions, he dreams his designs at night and keeps a sketchbook and pens by his bedside. "It's not work, it's pleasure. It's no different from an artist enjoying and being fulfilled by his painting."

Cardin's acknowledged days of genius were in the 1960s when he brought astronaut-inspired suits onto the catwalk and used new synthetic materials like vinyl in extraordinary bubble mini-dresses. He dressed, among others, Jackie Kennedy, Bianca Jagger and Marlene Dietrich.

The Victoria and Albert Museum in London held a retrospective of his best designs a few years ago, but the same compliment has not been offered by the Parisians.

"You are not always respected at home," he says. He is respected increasingly as a businessman and less as a designer. There is a Marks & Spencer-like solidity about Cardin creations, no bad thing, but he works in an industry which always worships the new.

He has, however, received the Legion of Honour, and a dozen fashion awards. He is recognised for maintaining fashion and design as one of France's biggest exports — in fact, so popular was he with the last presidential regime that Mitterrand used to let Cardin take his palace parking space. Mme Chirac is a

'Young women have such good bodies that prêt-à-porter is fine'

regular at Cardin's private haute couture shows.

Cardin no longer allows photographers or television into his haute couture shows.

"With the Internet and communications, your designs can be stolen and copied within hours," he says. Instead, he invites a few journalists and about 120 private clients, some of whom are the nouveau riche from Brazil, China and Russia. They still come for the haute couture cut, which can be very forgiving to the mature figure.

"Young women nowadays have such good bodies that prêt-à-porter is fine for them," says Cardin.

He is not, however, very impressed by his rivals' efforts. He rifles through photographs of his suits from the 1950s which are being ripped off once again: "I see nothing new out there, just recycling, recycling of old ideas — a lot of them mine."

Does self-esteem explain a French woman's mystique?

PERFUME

Ever since Coco Chanel launched France's best-selling fragrance, Chanel No 5, seventy-five years ago and Marilyn Monroe later remarked that in bed she wore nothing but the fragrance, French perfume has been the first choice of women the world over. For most, French perfume enjoys an unrivalled mystique.

As a Welshman running L'Oréal, the world's largest cosmetics company, Lindsay Owen-Jones is well placed to define the elusive quality that gives the French their international pre-eminence in matters of fragrance, fashion and — for that matter — food.

It is, he says, their essential sense of self-esteem. "The French place great value on their health and their appearance. They are prepared to spend more on themselves than the British and they are much more demanding. They want the best they can afford, and fragrances and cosmetics are high on their lists of priorities."

French women spend five times as much as British women on body care and twice as much on each visit to their hairdresser.

French mothers traditionally introduce their daughters to the secrets and disciplines of make-up, hair care and grooming in a way that British women seldom do.

However, the British are catching up fast in the value they attach to beauty products, says Jean-Jacques Lebel, the managing director of L'Oréal in the UK. The company's British sales — 6 per cent of the world total — have increased by 50 per cent over the past five years.

L'Oréal was founded in 1907 by Eugène Schueller, a French chemist working in Paris, to make hair colouring. It now manufactures and markets such well-known cosmetic brands as Helena Rubinstein, Lancôme, Biotherm, Redken and the fragrances of Giorgio Armani, Guy Laroche, Paloma Picasso and Ralph Lauren.

Lindsay Owen-Jones, who combines the rugged appearance of a Welsh rugby player with the suave charm of a Jean-Paul Belmondo, joined the company after leaving Oxford and business school in Paris. He spent his first year driving around Normandy selling sachets of DOP shampoo to municipal bath houses.

He was appointed chairman of the board and chief executive in 1988 and cheerfully boasts that L'Oréal has recorded 11 years of growth, with the April 1996 net earnings figure standing at Fr3.4 billion (£440 million). The company prides itself on its research base and its innovative products in the fields of hair colourants, skin-care, make-up and sun protection.

Last year it took out 272 new patent registrations, developed a high tolerance mascara for women with sensitive eyes and launched what the company calls a "revolutionary" non-transferring lipstick, which could remove at least one of the risks of illicit liaisons.

Now that perfume is an everyday part of most women's lives — according to a recent survey 85 per cent use it and 50 per cent dab or spray it on at

least once a day — it is strange to remember that when Coco Chanel created Chanel No 5 it was a radical concept which was to revolutionise the perfume industry. Its complex formula gave it a mysterious, indefinable quality, while the addition of formaldehyde provided staying power.

Previously, simple floral fragrances had been the only scents available. As these tended to fade quickly, both men and women would douse themselves in their favourite perfume to try to obtain a longer lasting effect — often with less than desired results. In Edmonde Charles-Roux's biography of Coco Chanel one turn-of-the-century diarist was quoted as saying: "The Duc de Mouchy was our nearest neighbour. I always knew when he had walked past on the pavement, because he left

it reeking." The popularity of today's more subtle scents has created a booming perfume industry with manufacturers frequently bringing out new scents in the hope of coming up with a winner.

But the sweet smell of success can be elusive. Of the 100 scents launched last year in France, only a few will prove to be top earners for the companies, which can spend up to £20 million on creating and marketing a new product.

The biggest new perfume of the past six years has been Lancôme's *Tresor*, launched in 1990. It has become Europe's second bestselling fragrance. Other new scents tipped to do well are the floral *Poème*, also by Lancôme, which was launched last autumn, and Chanel's new star, *Allure*, launched this spring and promoted as "difficult to define, impossible to resist" — a description with which most women, when faced with the seductive charms of the wonderful array of French perfumes available to them today, would have to agree.

SUSAN BELL

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After 12 months in office President Chirac finds himself fighting the 'feel-bad factor' on both the political and economic fronts

National Front lands a right hook

POLITICS

The ruling majority is drawing up its battle plans. The left-wing Opposition is on the offensive. And the ultra-right National Front is threatening to sow panic across the political spectrum.

Twelve months after Jacques Chirac became the French head of state, electoral fever is once more in the air. The legislative elections may be two years away but the main parties are marking out their ground ahead of a poll that will be decisive in shaping France in the 21st century.

Will M Chirac have the legislature of his choice? Or will he have to cohabit with an aggressive Socialist government? And will Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front increase its significant influence? The Gaullist Rassemblement pour la République (RPR) was created in 1976 to back M Chirac's bid to become President. Once its mission was finally accomplished, the movement wondered what it should do next.

For several months last year, it gave every impression of lacking direction and identity. Supporters of Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, called for monetary rigour and commitment to Europe. Partisans of Edouard Balladur, his predecessor and failed presidential candidate, urged tax cuts.

Meanwhile, the RPR's rising star, Philippe Seguin, speaker of the National Assembly, seemed to be on the verge of restarting his anti-

Maastricht crusade with a call to increase public spending and, hence, public deficits.

A series of by-election defeats served to restore order to the movement. The Balladurians have fallen into line since the start of the year. Once they criticised M Juppé's controversial proposals to reduce social security spending, now they praise the plan as unavoidable. Where they moaned about the PM's lack of charisma, they now compliment him on his austerity.

Even the Euro-sceptics have quietened down. In a party built around the personality of M Chirac, his conversion to the cause of Euro-enthusiasm have left M Seguin and colleagues with a stark choice. Either they found themselves pushed to the fringe of the

France must expel three million immigrants to cut employment, says Le Pen

movement or they backed the president. Mindful that if he attacked M Chirac, he destroyed his chances of becoming prime minister, M Seguin took the prudent path, arguing that since Maastricht had been ratified it had to be implemented.

"What is at stake in the legislative elections is to give the President the means to fulfil the commitments he made during the election campaign," said M Juppé at the



Voice of youth: some Chirac supporters say the Government has let them down

beginning of May. "It is united around his record, united around his project, and united around his choice of men that the majority will go into the legislative battle."

It would be wrong, however, to assume that the Gaullists' problems are over. Far from it. The Socialist Opposition, led by its presidential contender, Lionel Jospin, has also put its divisions aside as it concentrates on the "disappointment" of M Chirac's year in office.

Underlining the gulf that separated campaign pledges to end France's "social fracture" and the reality of austerity budgets designed to prepare the country for European monetary union, M Jospin has tapped into

a rich seam of public frustration. The under-30s, whose vote was decisive in M Chirac's triumph last May, have been particularly receptive to Socialist claims that the Government has let them down. As a result, the Gaullists are in danger of losing their majority at the elections.

More disturbingly, perhaps, M Le Pen has been making similar criticisms of the government, and reaping similar dividends. His fierce anti-

immigration — and often anti-immigrant — rhetoric brought him 15 per cent of the vote in last year's presidential poll, and since then his standing seems to have increased.

Arguing that France can only hope to cut its unemployment total of three million people if it expels three million immigrants, the National Front is on course to enter the National Assembly, winning about ten seats, according to recent polls.

Attempting to pull the rug from under M Le Pen's feet, Jean-Louis Debré, the Interior Minister, has ordered expulsions of several planeloads of illegal immigrants. He is considering proposals to tighten immigration laws: an option is to force arrivals from "sensitive countries" to give fingerprints at French borders.

M Debré argues that his measures are the only effective way of stemming the ultra-right tide. If they fail, traditional politics could be replaced by a more cynical struggle in which M Le Pen has the upper hand, he says. For Europe, that would be profoundly dangerous.

ADAM SAGE



Le Pen: increased standing



Jospin: public frustration

Spring offensive starts to beat the depression

ECONOMICS

Two events just north of Paris have raised spirits as the French economy comes out of its winter slump provoked by the widespread strikes last December.

At Saint Denis on the AI motorway, the new Fr2.6 billion (£33 million) Stade de France, principal venue of the 1998 World Soccer Cup, is rapidly taking shape, fed by Fr2 billion worth of new roads and fast Metro lines.

Further north at Charles de Gaulle airport, the American parcels giant, Federal Express, is starting work on a new Fr1 billion complex, designed to be the main European link in a round-the-world service starting this year.

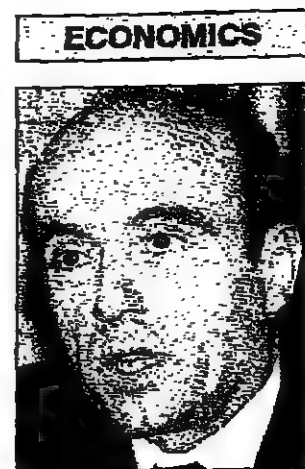
The sight of cranes on the horizon has created something of a "feel-good" factor after the disappointing end to 1995, when growth slumped to 2.1 per cent.

The economy and consumer spending, in particular, picked up sharply in the first two months of this year, but has stabilised since. The Government's prediction of 1.5 per cent growth in 1996 is accepted by most independent experts. An upturn is foreseen in the second half of the year, leading to much stronger growth, perhaps in the region of 2.8 per cent, in 1997.

The Government is committed to draconian cuts in public spending of some Fr60 billion, but both President Chirac and Alain Juppé, his Prime Minister, have said that the tax burden will be eased from September. Jean Arthuis, the Economy Minister, is not so sure that this will be possible, but parliamentary elections in 1998 mean that the economy will be stimulated by one means or another.

The Government has managed to bring inflation under control — from 3 per cent last year, it stands at just over 2 per cent at the moment — and has recently cut interest rates.

However, unemployment stands at nearly 12 per cent, or some three million people. This is an explosive issue as many large companies, such as Alcatel Alsthom, the



Juppé: easing tax burden

telecommunications giant and makers of the TGV express trains, need to restructure or downsize in order to return to profit.

The same goes for big state groups such as Air France and French Railways which are losing huge sums, and France Télécom which makes money but which must come to terms with European telecommunications deregulation in little more than a year.

The state's health service, la sécurité sociale, is running a Fr45 billion annual deficit and defies attempts at reform. Cuts are difficult given the extent of the massive transport workers strikes in December, which were motivated by planned reductions of benefits and pensions.

The main concern for France is what happens next door in Germany, its principal trading partner. Despite Germany's downturn, the French once again reported a healthy trade surplus in 1995 of Fr107 billion, some Fr20 billion higher than in 1994.

The banking sector is in crisis and mergers and modernisation are badly needed. When it comes to modernisation, the Government is setting the trend with its measures to attract foreign investment. France claims it is just as attractive as Britain for foreign investors. Jean-Daniel Tordjman, the Government's ambassador-at-large responsi-

ble for investment, points to the \$150 billion of foreign investment in France since the early 1980s with last year's figure, some \$12 billion, higher for the first time than the amount invested by French firms abroad. Foreign enterprises, with their two million workers, provide a quarter of all manufacturing jobs and are responsible for 30 per cent of French exports.

Britain's \$195 billion of foreign investment over the same period includes reinvested profits, says M Tordjman, who travels around the world drumming up investment through his Invest in France agency, part of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Whatever the pros and cons of the statistical argument, France is certainly up there with Britain as the main magnet in Europe. In February, the Government removed all investment restrictions, except in the defence sector. This spring it introduced measures to make foreign investment even more attractive. These included the right of foreign companies to bring in their own managers. Companies' tax status is to be fixed and stay stable, and those wishing to open shops will have a mere 15 days' delay instead of a minimum of six months.

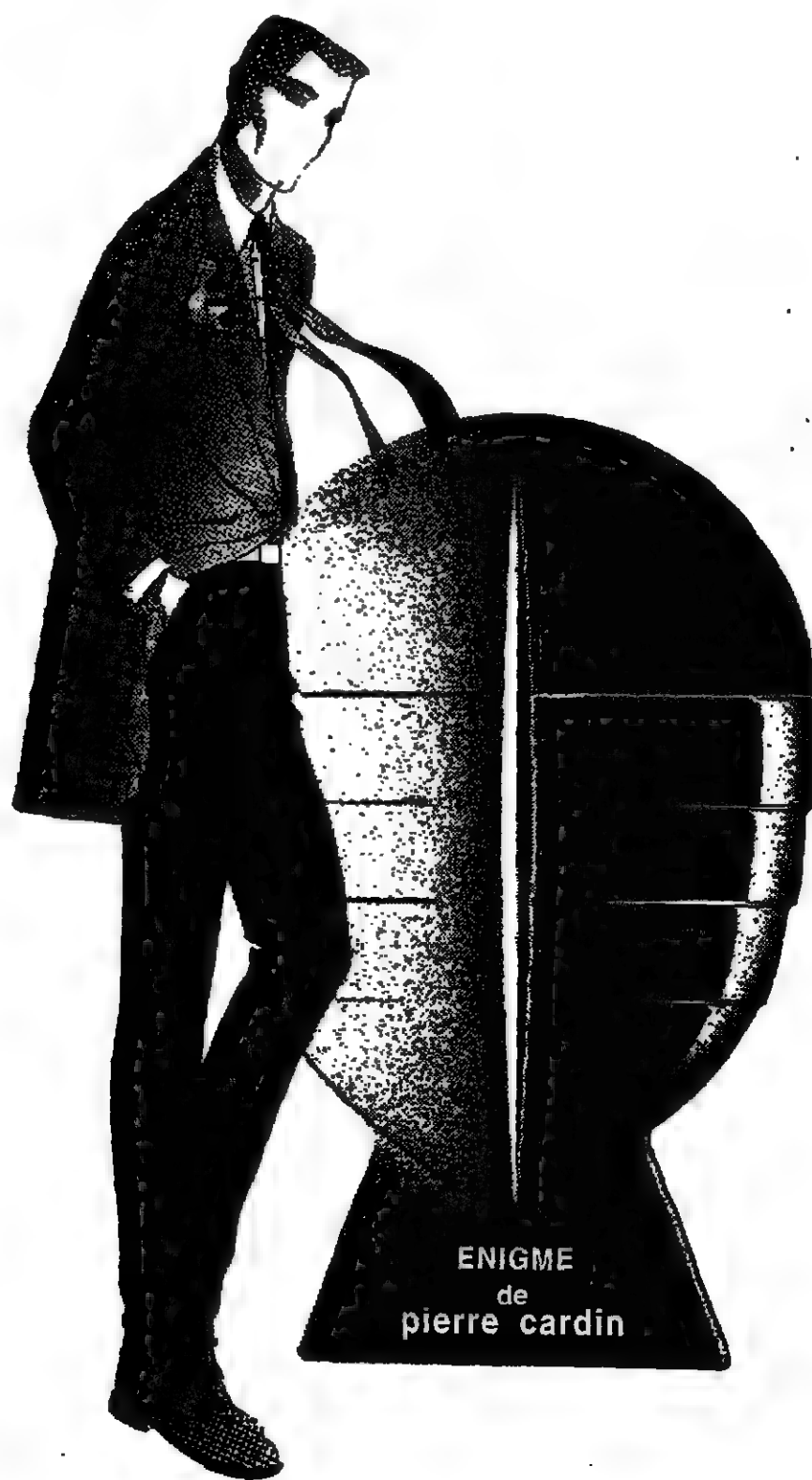
M Tordjman admits that Britain benefited from French mistakes on restrictions in the past. "The number of foreign firms arriving here now shows that we have changed." There is a lot of activity by Japanese, American and domestic telecommunications firms in mobile phones, a market set to explode in France. Increasingly, France's engineers are switching to telecommunications and this large pool of talent has attracted 400 international research centres in the past few years.

M Tordjman says some European countries should stop selling Europe short because the attraction of Asia is growing and the region last year outperformed Europe in the foreign investment stakes.

ALAN TILLIER

Ligne masculine ENIGME

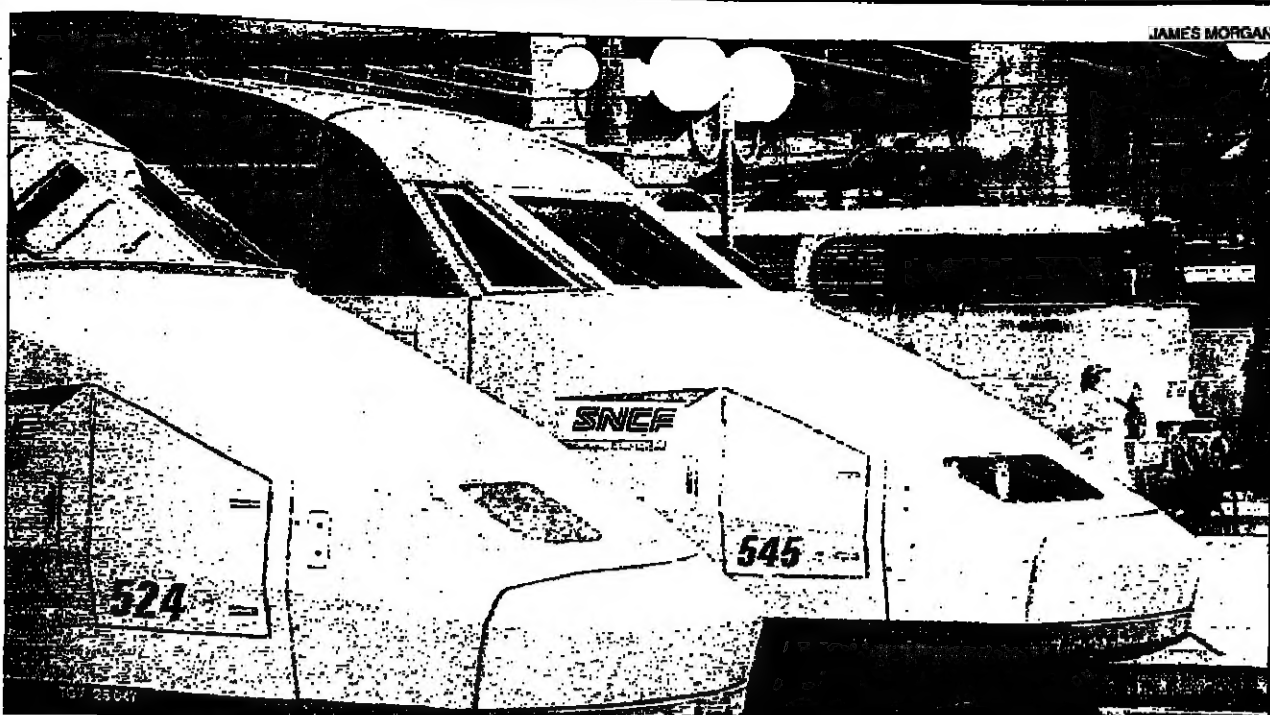
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France's TGV express trains: but Alcatel Alsthom which makes them needs to restructure in order to return to profit

French industry has entered a period of turbulence accompanied by many doubts and just one certainty: it will not emerge in the same form.

From aerospace to cars, and from defence to electronics, companies are facing a series of overhauls as they strive to compete with rivals abroad. With a balance of payments that shows a surplus of about Fr30 billion (£3.8 million) some of Europe's biggest firms and a wealth of know-how, the French appear well equipped for the next century.

As industry leaders themselves admit, however, appearances can be deceptive. France's brand of state directive capitalism has left it with an industrial base that is technologically impressive but commercially deficient. Dominique Mars, a Paris-based business analyst, said: "In terms of profitability, France is playing in the second division." The mergers, privatisations and shake-ups under consideration are designed in large measure to remedy this failing. But many of the reforms are politically inspired by a Gaullist-led administration determined that France should remain a global power.

Aérospatiale is a case in point. With its 38,600 employees and its leading role in the Toulouse-based Airbus consortium, the company has its fingers in many lucrative pies. The maker of Ariane rockets, Exocet missiles, combat helicopters and Airbus planes, it

Turbulent time in industry

INDUSTRY

should be a jewel in the French industrial crown.

Instead, it is a headache. The State, which owns 82 per cent of its capital, has been a stultifying partner, bringing in neither funds nor ideas. With losses of Fr1 billion last year and debts of Fr16.5 billion, Aérospatiale is lagging far behind British Aerospace and the German Dasa, and this despite technical expertise on a par with any competitor.

The electronics sector is every bit as complex. Like Aérospatiale, Thomson is a strategic group with a worldwide reputation, and like Aérospatiale, is on the list of state-owned firms destined for privatisation.

Thomson's sell-off has been marked down for this year, however, sparking interest from heavyweights in France and abroad. With its multimedia arm, one of the biggest

manufacturers of televisions in the world, and its defence arm, Thomson CSF, the group is potentially attractive, although shares are unlikely to be offered to the public.

The Government wants to sell Thomson without splitting it up but the consequent asking price, FF40 billion, is a deterrent. Marcel Roulet, the former head of France Télécom appointed to pilot Thomson's privatisation, has been asked to draw up plans by June. He began by sounding out potential purchasers only to be met with lukewarm interest.

Renault once thought it would be sold into the private sector long before Thomson, or AGF, the insurance group now going through the process. When the Government floated just under half Renault's shares 18 months ago, the next step seemed a formali-

ty. However, its share price and sales have since fallen. "Renault is on hold," said a government source.

The gloom deepens with the publication of figures showing that in France the combined market share of Renault and the Peugeot-Citroën group has fallen to about 55 per cent, while Fiat and Volkswagen have been gaining ground. "People always find that our cars are too expensive," Louis Schwietzer, Renault's chairman, said this month, "but we have to sell very complex and very rich products at mass market prices."

For France's nuclear industry, which supplies 75 per cent of the country's energy needs and exports more than Fr 15 billion worth of electricity a year, the future is clearer. The Government has committed itself to updating the country's 54 nuclear power stations at a cost of between Fr600 billion and Fr100 billion.

France's electricity supply company, EDF, which is soon to take delivery of a new EPR 2000 reactor, is likely to create a special fund to help to pay the tens of billions of francs that it will take to decommission existing nuclear power stations. The financial burden is heavy. But at least EDF knows that the strategies it has followed and the base that it has laid down are not being challenged. The same cannot be said for much of the rest of French industry.

ADAM SAGE

Peddalling through history

TOURISM

The French take their cycling seriously. The Tour de France is a physical tour de force, watched and cheered on by millions as the swift snake of riders winds its way around the country.

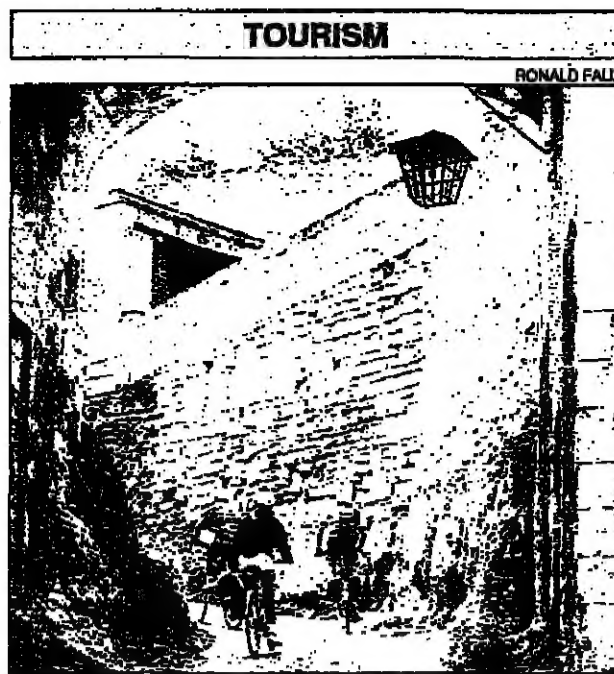
A Tour en France along the Loire organised by Explore Worldwide takes an opposite, un-French approach to cycling: no yellow jerseys and no entourage of television cameras, sports commentators or commercial sponsors cling to our wake. The main object is a gentle, uncompetitive pedal down the peaceful valley, so beloved by French kings and aristocrats that they built their castles and cultivated their vineyards close to the river there.

A car is too quick and walking rather slow for this countryside, a bicycle gives exactly the right pace to enjoy the scenery and cover the distance in the 13 days taken between Montrichard and Saumur. The route follows the river as it winds westwards through a region crowded with historical interest but with mercifully few serious hills to climb.

Our 11-strong group is met from the train from Paris at Montrichard by Graham Bullock. Explore's "meeter and greeter", repairer of punctures and support driver. His van pulls a trailer filled with a selection of hardy, multi-geared bicycles which he adjusts for each rider. Lightweight safety helmets, rather like sturdy soufflés, are handed round.

The routine is for luggage to be carried to the day's destination in the van, allowing the group to cycle unladen. Explore has booked rooms for the party in a variety of small, comfortable hotels along the way and provides a route plan detailed to the smallest road junction. Each morning after breakfast the day's itinerary is posted and Graham Bullock briefs the group on hazards to be expected, places of interest to visit and distances to be covered. The average daily ride is about 18 to 20 miles, although those with stouter limbs and greater enthusiasm may add on longer diversions.

Our group includes an American telephone engineer with tireless legs, an Australian restaurant manageress



Freewheeling in France through towns and countryside

and keep-fit zealot, a Yorkshire lawyer and his wife and a college lecturer who customised her bicycle with a wickerwork basket containing a baguette wrapped in a towel, cheese and a flask of coffee. With such a cross-section of cyclists, the group soon spreads out, each rider pedalling at his or her own pace.

Wherever possible the route steers well away from main highways, choosing instead lanes winding through open countryside or beside vineyards that spread neat as corduroy across the valley floor. In mid-September the

temperature is perfect for cycling with an autumn crispness in the air.

After two days in Montrichard, where Richard the Lionheart was once besieged and imprisoned during the struggles between the Plantagenets and the Kings of France, the group have found their cycling legs and are wheeling their way to the Château Chenonceaux, an imposing 16th-century pile, built in the middle of the river Cher. An easy ride through forest leads to the ancient town of Amboise.

The choice on day four is between a relaxing visit to the

town's Royal Château and the Leonardo da Vinci museum at the Château de Clos-Luce, or a more energetic trip to the hilltop Château Chaumont which gives superb views across the river and surrounding woodland.

The tour becomes a delightful succession of elegant castles, with the Château at Azay and in the forest of Chinon the Château d'Ussé, reputedly the setting for the Sleeping Beauty. A long freewheel down a winding hill into the medieval streets of Chinon and across the river Vienne ends at our small hotel overlooked by the fortress where Joan of Arc met and recognised the Dauphin Charles in 1429.

The route then follows lanes to Fontevraud Abbey, near where the Vienne meets the Loire and famous as the resting place of the Kings of England. Decorated tombs contain the remains of Henry II, his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine, and Richard the Lionheart.

The tour ends in a downpour at Saumur where the prospect of a hot bath in the hotel overwhelms even the attractions of a last imposing château and a display at the Ecole Nationale d'Équitation.

RONALD FAUX

● The author was a guest of Explore Worldwide, 1 Frederick Street, Aldershot, Hants GU11 1LQ (01252 319448). Loire Valley cycling tours cost from £595 for 13 days, covering flight from London to Paris, train and B&B.



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to the fine wines of Burgundy or wild mushrooms and precious black truffles from Provence, is the basis for a cuisine of matchless sophistication and variety. Combine this with a passionate involvement with food which infects all strata of French society — the

society hostess entertaining in her Paris apartment, the provincial housewife combing her village *marché* for the freshest local produce — and it becomes easy to understand how French produce and French recipes have gained such pre-eminence.

Like all Western European nations, however, France has not been immune to the fast-food and microwave invasion, and in recent years French eating habits have undergone several dramatic changes. Where once a three-hour lunch was considered the norm, the average Frenchman or woman often prefers to grab a snack nowadays, spending just an hour and 20 minutes a day at a table. The drive towards a healthier and less fattening diet has led the French to consume considerably fewer eggs and potatoes, to reduce their sugar intake and to cut the amount of bread they eat: in the past 30 years this has fallen by half, leading bakers to make dire forecasts that if the French fail to support the baguette virtually a national symbol it will disappear from their shops.

Even wine consumption has fallen, with the average person getting through only 25 bottles a year instead of 90.

Struggling with the problems of recession in recent years, many French families

have chosen to stay at home to save money, and have turned increasingly to convenience foods, microwave dinners and even — dare it be said — the pizza delivery man.

As the French regard their culinary expertise as an important part of their *patrimoine* or national heritage, this shift in eating habits has generated considerable concern at the highest levels. The Culture Ministry has advised schools to introduce special gastronomic courses to encourage children, increasingly seduced by the instant gratification of McDonald's, to appreciate the fine products and cuisine of their region.

The revolution in eating habits has also struck at the heart of the French restaurant business, causing profound changes in the Gallic approach to dining out. While the 1990s have seen many of France's most prestigious restaurants suffering from a creeping malaise, in part brought on by exorbitant prices and the tendency to ruin old-fashioned ambience with stuffy etiquette, an exciting new trend has emerged for moderately priced bistros boasting high-quality food and innovative menus. While grand restaurants such as Maxim's in Paris are half empty, many of the newer establishments, where diners can enjoy a fixed-menu lunch for about £20 per person, have two-week waiting lists.

Paris now has 19 baby bistros and more are opening in the provinces, some with distinguished chefs such as Guy Savoy and Jacques Cagna at the helm.

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Jones Boys Six clinch win after stomach-churning end to great first year of ITF

Shopping stops Jones going off his trolley

Mike Jones had just come in from doing the shopping when Eric Cantona's late goal settled the FA Cup Final on Saturday. Jones had chosen Saturday afternoon as being the ideal time for his hunting through the aisles of Tesco for baked beans and cans of soup for more reasons than just convenience. He had wanted to avoid the match.

Jones, a mathematics teacher at Meadowhead Comprehensive in Sheffield, held a slender advantage at the top of the leaderboard in Interactive Team Football (ITF) going into the final week, which comprised just the Wembley showpiece. He thought that Jones Boys Six, his team, was far enough ahead to hang on, provided that the final did not need a replay to resolve the outcome. At 0-0, he was worried, but Cantona's strike moments after his arrival home brought welcome relief.

"I couldn't bare to watch the match with so much at stake," Jones said. "The only way I could lose was a replay or, possibly, a high-scoring game. Cantona's goal provided welcome relief, not least because I had transferred him into my team specially for the game."

Jones admitted that luck had naturally played its part in his success, but it was his conscientious approach to monitoring fixtures sometimes weeks ahead that ensured that he stayed ahead of the competition. "I was constantly looking through books of statistics, checking injury reports and fixtures and even looking at disciplinary records," he said. "Mark Hughes and Roy Keane are examples of players who are very talented and always score goals, but happen to get booked too much. Their style of play tends to result in lost points through suspensions, so, at the end of the day, they are a bad risk in ITF."

The Jones Boys Six team



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



that finished the competition comprised: goalkeeper: K. Brannagan (Bolton Wanderers); full backs: P. Neville (Manchester United), L. Dixon (Arsenal); central defenders: P. Albert (Newcastle United), M. Wright (Liverpool); midfield players: S. Watson (Newcastle United), R. Earle (Wimbledon), J. Redknapp (Liverpool), J. Woan (Nottingham Forest); strikers: C. Armstrong (Tottenham Hotspur), E. Cantona (Manchester United); manager: J. Kinnear (Wimbledon).

Robbie Earle did fine service to Jones Boys Six, but it was Peter Schmeichel who the manager awarded player-of-

the-year honours. "Schmeichel, like Manchester United, had a slowish start to the year, but really came good when I needed him and is probably more responsible for my success than any other single player," Jones said.

"I was forced to take him out before the Cup Final just in case the unexpected happened, but, in the end, he typically kept a clean sheet and I need not have worried."

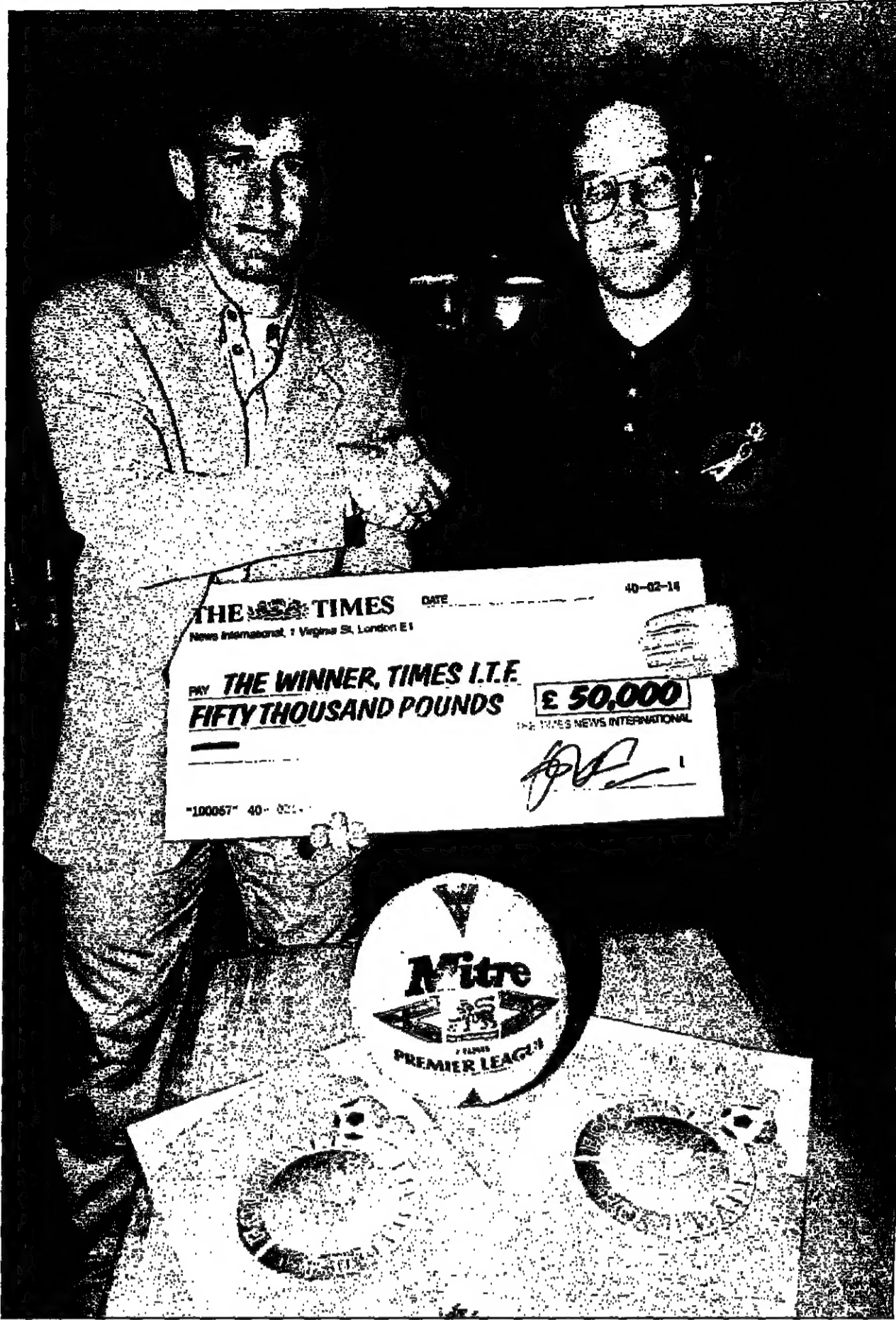
Jones is not planning any wild celebrations as the responsibilities of bringing up his young twin boys has to be remembered, and the money will probably go to providing for the future of "Jones Boys Two" rather than extravaganzas.

Jones's joy was Richard Layton's despair. The manager of the valiant Layton's Lions had chased the winner hard for a month but, in the end, he had just too much to do to close the gap.

The two men came face to face at the ITF awards lunch held at the themed football restaurant "Football Football" in London's Haymarket on Sunday. Layton was generous in defeat and could only reflect that "Cantona could have cost me everything."

Third place went to Rajesh and Bhupesh Gohil, from London, whose Gohils Gods 65 team dropped away only in the closing stages. The two men admitted that the competition had given them some great thrills and they were awaiting next year's keenly. In the meantime, the Euro 96 version of the game, to be launched on Saturday in *The Times*, will keep them entertained.

When the contest had entered its final month, the outcome had seemed to rest between a handful of competitors, but the benefits of playing hard to the end were highlighted by Percy's Progress, who moved up to fifth overall and in so doing landed the £500 cheque for manager of the month for April.



Jones receives the £50,000 ITF cheque from Mark Hughes at the ITF awards lunch on Sunday

Leading players at awards luncheon

LEADING players from the FA Carling Premiership gathered for the presentation awards lunch of the inaugural £50,000 Interactive Team Football (ITF) competition.

The ceremony, held at the newly-opened themed restaurant, "Football Football", in London's Haymarket, brought together the top ten finishers in the competition with some of football's leading lights, such as Mark Hughes, of Chelsea, and Gary Mabbutt, of Tottenham Hotspur.

Hughes presented the £50,000 winner's cheque to Mike Jones for the success of his team, Jones Boys Six, after which he praised the efforts of the game in lifting the public understanding of the Premiership and its players to new heights.

ITF is to return next season in a slightly different form and it is hoped that, through the promotion of the game in schools, pubs and other institutions, the number of players competing will be increased to far more than the 260,000 who took part in the highly successful inaugural version of the game.

In order to maintain the interest of avid ITF players during the summer, *The Times* is launching a Euro 96 version of the game in a tabloid supplement that will appear on Saturday.

This competition will run over the course of the European championship finals and demand that ITF players display their knowledge of European football to score points in a similar fashion to the FA Carling Premiership version of the game.

The main difference will be that their will be no values attached to the players. Instead, entrants will be limited to two players from each European team and asked to include one player from the special "rising star" category, covering Europe's most exciting young players.

The competition will serve to provide added interest to the championship and anyone with specialist knowledge of European football is sure to enjoy a big advantage.

Team	Goals
T. Flowers	1
B. Adams	1
P. Schmeichel	1
A. Cotton	1
M. Croxley	1
T. Wright	1
A. Peles	1
O. James	1
A. Warner	1
J. Lukic	1
M. Beoney	1
P. Smicek	1
M. Hooper	1
S. Hishop	1
I. Walker	1
E. Thorpe	1
S. Dykstra	1
J. Sommer	1
H. Segers	1
N. Sullivan	1
P. Hield	1
S. Grobbelaar	1
D. Beasant	1
A. Kharine	1
K. Hitchcock	1
D. Seaman	1
V. Bartram	1
K. Pressman	1
C. Woods	1
L. Miodusko	1
L. Sealey	1
N. Southall	1
J. Keaton	1
S. Ogrizovic	1
J. Gould	1
J. Pizarro	1
A. Diable	1
E. Mouton	1
M. Bosnich	1
M. Oakes	1
A. Miller	1
G. Walsh	1
K. Brannagan	1
A. Davidson	1
G. Ward	1

Team	Goals
H. Berg	1
G. Le Saux	1
J. Kenna	1
G. Croft	1
D. Irwin	1
G. Parker	1
G. Neville	1
S. Pearce	1
D. Lytle	1
A. Halland	1
R. Jones	1
S. Barmby	1
S. Harkness	1
T. Doran	1
K. Kelly	1
N. Worthington	1
J. Beardsley	1
W. Barton	1
D. Austin	1
J. Edinburg	1
S. Campbell	1
D. Kerridge	1
C. Wilson	1
D. Beardsley	1
B. Swett	1
N. Zalic	1
T. Chellis	1
A. Kinnear	1
G. Elkins	1
K. Cunningham	1
R. Joseph	1
J. Dodd	1
F. Bernal	1
S. Charlton	1
S. Clarke	1
S. Minto	1
A. Myers	1
T. Pheasant	1
D. Petreux	1
L. Dixon	1
N. Winterburn	1
S. Morrow	1
I. Nolan	1
A. Alberton	1
D. Stefanovic	1
J. Dicks	1
T. Brackner	1
K. Brown	1
K. Rowland	1
A. Abbott	1
E. Barrett	1
M. Jackson	1
N. Burrows	1
A. Pickering	1
S. Morgan	1
M. Hall	1
R. Edgill	1
J. Foster	1
M. Charlton	1
G. Farrant	1
S. Stannan	1
A. Wright	1
P. King	1
C. Blackmore	1
N. Cox	1
C. Morris	1
C. Fleming	1
S. Menco	1
G. Gergerson	1
S. Green	1
A. Phillips	1
A. Todd	1
S. McNeale	1
B. Small	1

Team	Goals
C. Hendry	1
P. Pearce	1
M. Barker	1
A. Reed	1
C. Coleman	1
S. Bruce	1
G. Patterer	1
J. May	1
C. Cooper	1
S. Kettle	1
R. Babb	1
N. Ruddock	1
J. Seales	1
M. Lewis	1
D. Wright	1
D. Matteo	1
C. Palmer	1
J. Pemberton	1
R. Bessley	1
R. Johnson	1
P. Allott	1
S. Hovey	1
D. Fowcock	1
C. Caldwell	1
S. Newbourn	1
K. Scott	1
J. Cundy	1

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4. All other companies will receive a £100 prize and a special trophy.
5. The winning company will also receive a special trophy and a £500 prize.
6. All other companies will receive a special trophy and a £100 prize.
7. The winning company will also receive a special trophy and a £500 prize.
8. All other companies will receive a special trophy and a £100 prize.

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- The winning company will also receive a special trophy and a £500 prize.
- All other companies will receive a special trophy and a £100 prize.
- The winning company will also receive a special trophy and a £500 prize.
- All other companies will receive a special trophy and a £100 prize.

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Company name: _____
Company address: _____
Post Code: _____
Telephone No.: _____
Facsimile: _____
E-mail: _____
Name of company representative to whom all correspondence will be sent: _____
VAT no. (if applicable): _____
Address: _____
County: _____
City: _____

Entry Requirements

The rules for your company registration are as follows:

Rules and Regulations

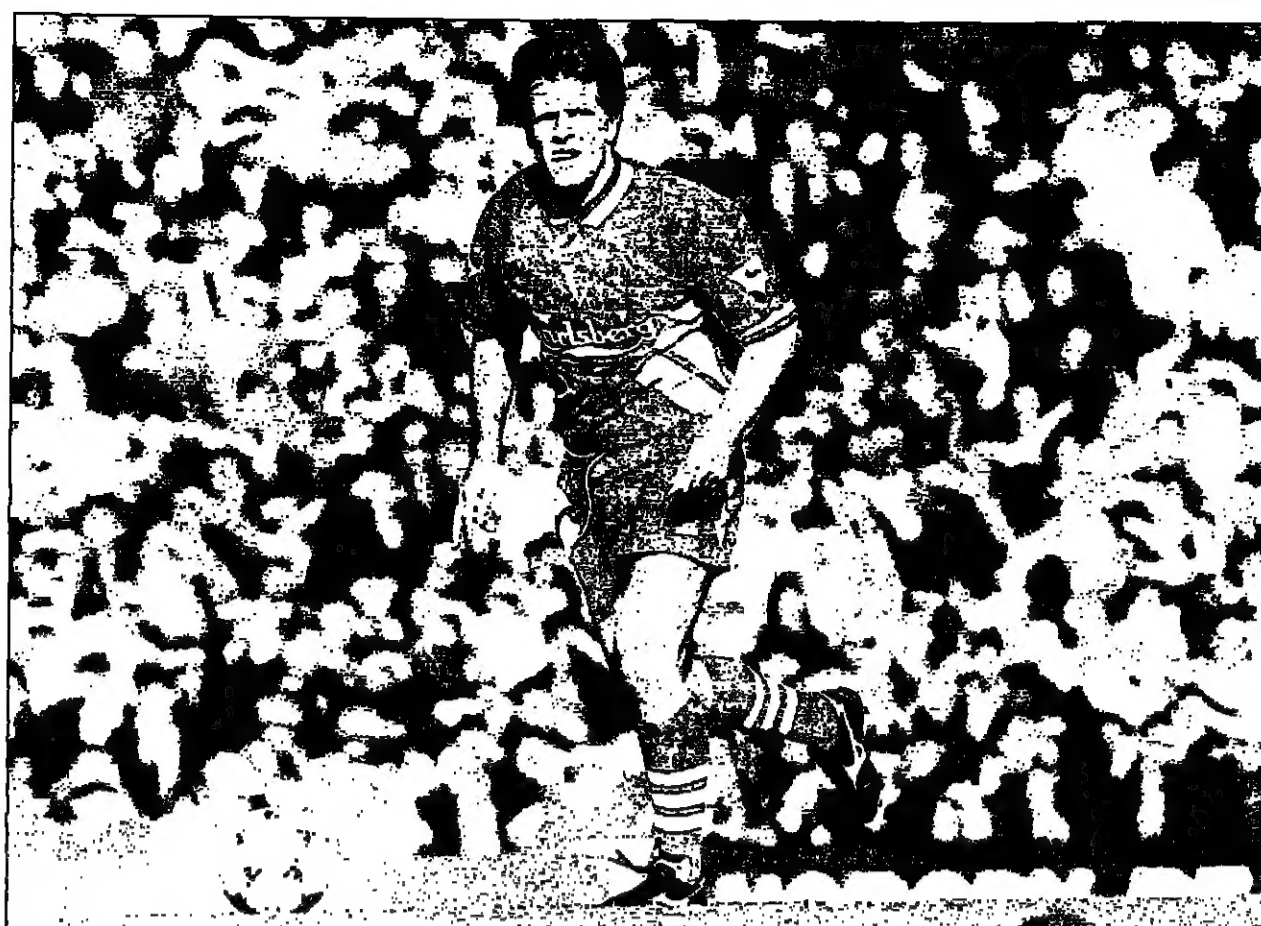
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The players' final scoring totals with which to assess how you performed during the season

Code	Name	Team	Pts	Wk	OV
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	0	-22
10102	B Schmeichel	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	+5	+56
10203	A Cotton	Manchester United	2.50	0	0
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	-31
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
10303	A Fattis	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	-1	+57
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0
10501	J Lukic	Leeds United	3.00	0	-19
10502	M Beesley	Leeds United	0.75	0	-13
10601	P Snelcock	Newcastle United	3.00	0	-5
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10603	S Hialop	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+13
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+3
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	-71
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	-48
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-7
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-22
10903	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0	0
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	0	-20
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+6
11102	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	0	-18
11201	D Semnan	Arsenal	5.00	0	+36
11202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-47
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-17
11401	L Mioduski	West Ham United	2.50	0	-5
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	-5
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0	-2
11502	J Kaarson	Everton	0.75	0	0
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	-14
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
11603	J Filan	Coventry City	1.50	0	-35
11701	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11702	E Immet	Manchester City	2.00	0	-39
11801	M Bonnich	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+30
11802	M Oakes	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	-2
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-18
12001	K Bransagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-5
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-5
12003	G Ward	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-8



Jan Moily, the Swansea City manager pictured during his Liverpool days, landed the PFA league in ITF

THE PROFESSIONALS' SCORES

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Wk	OV
1	Danish Dynamite	(J Moily)	521	38	380
2	West Shambles Ltd	(S Webster)	488	38	379
3	Nash FC	(M Powell)	471	40	378
4	Raitus Norvegicus	(S Pearce)	468	40	378
5	Dred Select	(S Morgan)	461	42	371
6	Teds XI	(B Home)	452	43	368
7	Macs Moodies	(A McDonald)	448	44	364
8	Cadburys Bust	(D Bust)	440	44	364
9	The Ruff Neck	(R Fox)	439	46	360
10	The Moody Blues	(N Spackman)	438	47	358
11	J & F FC	(J Beraford)	436	48	357
12	Southcoats Old Boys	(M Allen)	430	49	356
13	Bulldock Ton	(S Stone)	428	50	350
14	Doddy Barnets Eleven	(J Beraford)	423	51	349
15	Pure Silk	(T Sinclair)	423	51	349
16	Mbi's	(D Pascock)	421	52	339
17	Poelvo	(M Kennedy)	421	53	336
18	J C's Superstars	(S Clarke)	414	53	336
19	Bruce Bonus	(A Hinchcliffe)	412	55	333
20	The Bluesones	(J Spencer)	410	56	332
21	Kansas City Kings	(T Breaker)	409	57	331
22	Robs Rockets	(R Lee)	409	58	321
23	The Warriors	(S Dykstra)	407	58	313
24	The Fab 12	(F Defreitas)	407	60	311
25	Quango Ltd	(B Borrow)	403	60	311
26	Fantasina	(D Platt)	402	62	308
27	Toohy's Welsh Terrie	(I Rush)	401	63	303
28	The Crazy Boys	(N McDonald)	398	64	300
29	Whittys Winners	(S Whittaker)	392	65	297
30	Avenue Foch Town FC	(M Crossley)	391	66	296
31	Elly's Eggs	(R Elliott)	390	67	292
32	Cracker Jacks	(S Elliott)	389	68	287
33	Goochies	(N Southall)	389	69	282
34	Barkers Follies	(S Barker)	389	70	280
35	Silver Band Club XI	(T Blake)	383	71	267
36	Squark Hubbs	(D Dicho)	382	72	260
37	Irish Connection	(W Boland)	381	73	258

Code	Name	Team	Pts	Wk	OV
41412	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.00	0	+33
41413	I Dumitrescu	West Ham United	4.00	0	+7
41501	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	5.00	0	+33
41502	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	0	+40
41503	A Limpar	Everton	2.50	0	+28
41504	B Home	Everton	1.50	0	+29
41505	V Samways	Everton	1.50	0	+5
41506	J Parkinson	Everton	1.00	0	+41
41508	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0	+18
41509	A Kanchelskis	Everton	6.00	0	+78
41602	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	0	+34
41603	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.50	0	+5
41607	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	0	+39
41608	M Isalas	Coventry City	3.00	0	+8
41609	C Batista	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
41610	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	0	+49
41702	P Beagrie	Manchester City	3.00	0	+3
41703	S Lomas	Manchester City	1.50	0	+44
41704	I Brightwell	Manchester City	1.50	0	+27
41706	N Summerbee	Manchester City	1.50	0	+41
41707	G Kinkladze	Manchester City	1.50	0	+57
41708	N Clough	Manchester City	1.50	0	+27
41709	C Brown	Manchester City	1.00	0	+6
41801	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+42
41802	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+39
41803	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+47
41805	F Carr	Aston Villa	0.50	0	+4
41806	M Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+84
41901	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+29
41902	A Moore	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3
41903	J Moreno	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+2
41904	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+27
41905	J Pollock	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+37
41906	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+2
41907	Juninho	Middlesbrough	5.00	0	+26
42002	D Lee	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+11
42003	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+18
42007	W Burnett	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0
42008	S Sellers	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+33
42009	S Curcio	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	+34

Code	Name	Team	Pts	Wk	OV
50101	A Shearer	Blackburn Rovers	10.00	0	+85
50102	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	7.00	0	+7
50103	M Newell	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+26
50104	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+18
50201	N Goodmanson	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+1
50202	E Cantona	Manchester United	7.50	+3	+74
50203	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00	+1	+60
50204	B McClair	Manchester United	3.00	0	+19
50205	P Scholes	Manchester United	2.50	0	+40
50301	B Roy	Nottingham Forest	6.00	0	+46
50302	K Campbell	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	+38
50303	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	+29
50304	A Sillars	Nottingham Forest	3.50	0	+7
50305	P McGregor	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
50401	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.50	+1	+108
50402	S Collymore	Liverpool	7.00	+1	+72
50403	I Rush	Liverpool	3.00	0	+22
50501	A Yeboah	Leeds United	7.50	0	+53
50502	B Deane	Leeds United	2.50	0	+44
50503	P Mashing	Leeds United	1.50	0	+5
50504	T Brolin	Leeds United	5.00	0	+23
50601	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.00	0	+87
50602	P Beardsley	Newcastle United	5.00	0	+48
50603	P Kilton	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7
50604	M Allen	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50605	D Huckerby	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50606	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	6.50	0	+15
50701	E Sheringham	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	0	+62
50702	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	0	+74
50703	R Rosenzweig	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+34
50801	K Gallen	Queens Park Rangers	4.50	0	+41
50802	D Dicho	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	+32
50803	M Hateley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	+15
50901	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	4.00	0	+49
50902	J Goodman	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+31
50903	M Hartford	Wimbledon	1.00	0	+18
50904	G Blissett	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
50905	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+16
50906	E Eklou	Wimbledon	2.50	0	+51
50907	J Euell	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+2
51001	M La Tisser	Southampton	8.00	0	+40
51002	N Shipperley	Southampton	2.50	0	+64
51003	G Watson	Southampton	2.00	0	+27
51101	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	0	+46
51102	M Stein	Chelsea	2.50	0	+6
51103	J Spencer	Chelsea	2.50	0	+54
51104	F Furlong	Chelsea	2.50	0	+22
51201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	0	+54
51202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.50	0	+51
51203	J Hartson	Arsenal	4.00	0	+21
51204	C Kwomya	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
51205	P Dickov	Arsenal	0.75	0	+4
51301	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	4.00	0	+50
51302	M Bright	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+27
51303	S Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+36
51304	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3
51305	M Degryse	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	0	+48
51306	D Kovacevic	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	0	+11
51307	R Blinker	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	0	+7
51401	T Cottee	West Ham United	4.50	0	+52
51402	M Boogers	West Ham United	2.00	0	-3
51403	I Dowie	West Ham United	0.75	0	+49
51404	Dani	West Ham United	2.50	0	+7
51501	D Ferguson	Everton	8.00	0	+28
51502	D Amokachi	Everton	2.00	0	+36
51503	P Ridsout	Everton	3.00	0	+31
51504	G Stuart	Everton	2.00	0	+53
51601	D Dublin	Coventry City	4.50	0	+65
51602	P Ndlovu	Coventry City	4.00	0	+33
51603	N Lamptey	Coventry City	1.00	0	+3
51604	N Whelan	Coventry City	1.50	0	+40
51605	E Jess	Coventry City	3.00	0	+11
51701	U Rosler	Manchester City	5.50	0	+55
51702	N Quinn	Manchester City	4.00	0	+45
51703	G Craney	Manchester City	2.50	0	+15
51704	R Elardson	Manchester City	2.50	0	+1
51705	M Kavaleashvili	Manchester City	1.00	0	+5
51801	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	4.00	0	+81
51802	D Yorke	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+77
51803	T Johnson	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+28
51804	J Joachim	Aston Villa	1.50	0	+7
51901	J Fjortoft	Middlesbrough	5.00	0	+34
51902	J Hendrie	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+8
51903	P Wilkinson	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+5
51904	N Barmby	Middlesbrough	4.00	0	+46
52001	J McGinlay	Bolton Wanderers	3.00	0	+40
52002	M Paatelainen	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+12
52003	D De Freitas	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+27
52004	N Blake	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+12

Code	Name	Team	Pts	Wk	OV
60101	R Harford	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	0	+48
60201	A Ferguson	Manchester United	4.00	0	+34
60301	F Clark	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+57
60401	R Evans	Liverpool	4.00	0	+179
60501	H Wilkinson	Leeds United	3.00	0	+34
60601	K Keegan	Newcastle United	4.00	0	+70
60701	G Francis	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	0	+62
60801	R Wilkins	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	+12
60901	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	1.00	0	+36
61001	D Merrington	Southampton	1.50	0	+30
61101	G Huddle	Chelsea	2.50	0	+52
61201	B Rloch	Arsenal	3.50	0	+54
61301	D Pleat	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+21
61401	H Redknapp	West Ham United	1.00	0	+39
61501	J Royle	Everton	2.00	0	+54
61601	R Atkinson	Coventry City	1.50	0	+

NEWS

Test-tube babies for HIV mothers

■ Britain's leading test-tube baby doctor blew open the ethical debate on fertility treatments yesterday by offering to help HIV-positive women to conceive. Professor Robert Winston has already treated a former heroin user and says he has several other infected patients on his books.

His decision prompted immediate calls for tighter controls on the clinics which treat 18,000 infertile women a year, although the British Medical Association said that doctors should be trusted to make judgments. Page 1

Gas price curbs 'would threaten jobs'

■ About 10,000 jobs would be at risk if tough price curbs were forced on British Gas, the company said after the industry regulator revealed plans to cut customers' bills by about £50 a year. British Gas shares slumped 27p to 201p. Pages 1, 27

Labour shake-up

A radical shake-up of the workings of Parliament, including the abolition of the long summer recess and substantially increased powers for Commons committees, is to be proposed by Labour. Page 1

Controversial bishop

The Rev John Broadhurst, one of the strongest opponents of women priests in the Church of England, is to be appointed bishop. Page 1

Teacher's terror

A teacher's attempts to fire her pupils' imagination by staging a fake terrorist attack on their school backfired when the children cried and complained to their parents. Page 1

Murder retrial

Sara Thornton, 41, who denies murdering her husband, was portrayed as a pathological liar and compulsive attention-seeker. Page 3

Father sues

A father is to sue an education authority for failing to provide his son with proper schooling after teachers barred the boy because of violence. Page 5

Legal crisis

Crown Prosecution Service lawyers want to meet the Attorney-General and Solicitor-General about "day-to-day crisis management" in the courts. Page 6

French singers Scotch chauvinism

■ France has dropped its centuries old tradition of cultural chauvinism by choosing a Scottish woman to represent it in the Eurovision song contest to be held in Oslo on Saturday. Britain's entry is to be sung by Gina G, an Australian; Austria's song is a gospel number, while Iceland's entry is based on American music of the forties and fifties. Pages 6, 17

Plea to Vatican

Roman Catholic leaders in Britain have urged the Vatican to announce a successor to the late Archbishop of Liverpool quickly to end the speculation they believe is causing rifts within the Church. Page 7

Hardy season

Directors and producers are avidly rereading Thomas Hardy's classics in a rush to make them into films as popular with audiences as Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*. Page 9

Chirac sympathy

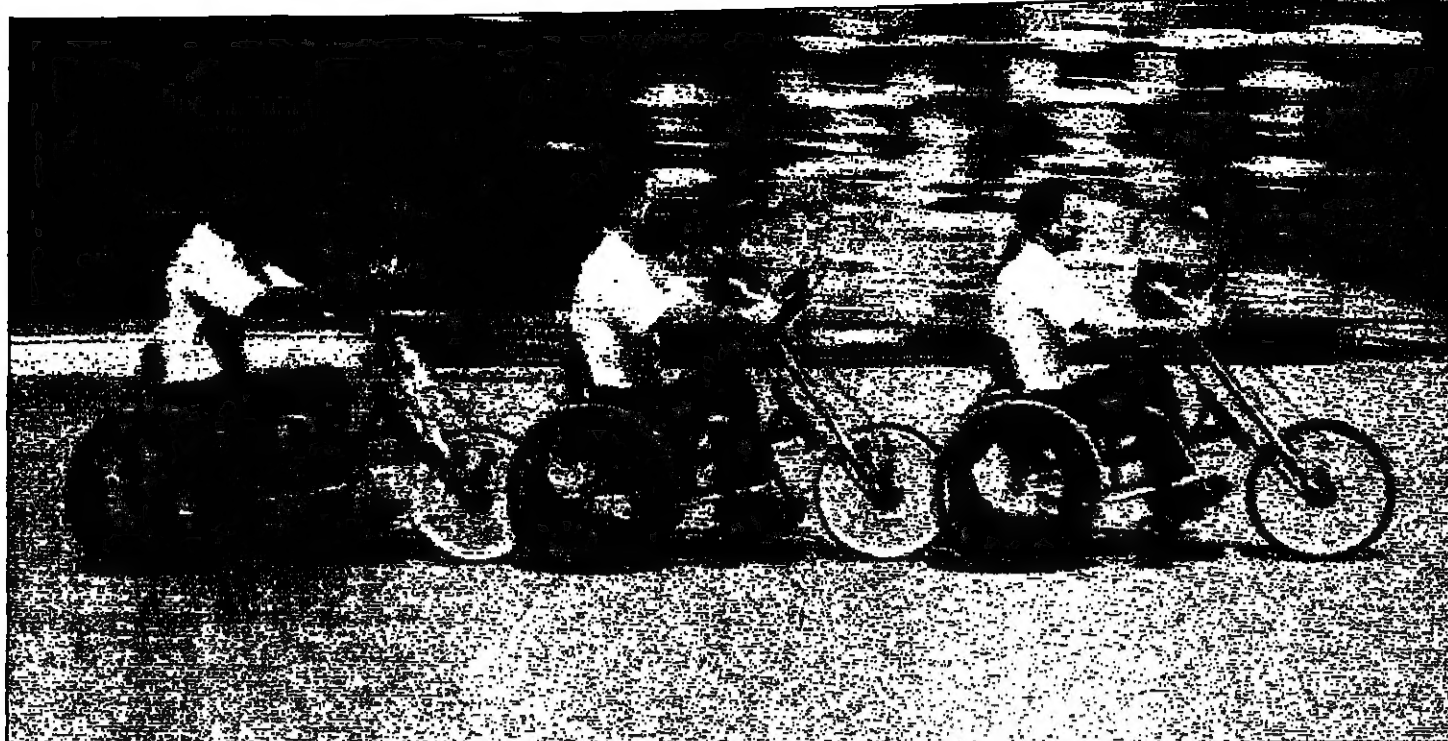
On the eve of his three-day state visit to Britain, President Chirac expressed sympathy for British cattle farmers and said France would back any relaxation of the beef ban approved at a European level. Pages 11, 16, 20-23

Death on Everest

Rob Hall, 35, the leading New Zealand mountaineer, bade a poignant farewell to his pregnant wife by radio before apparently dying near the summit of Mount Everest, which he had climbed five times. Page 12

Mandela ministers

President Mandela, facing criticism of his leadership and government's performance, attempted to consolidate the ANC's grip on power by rewarding favourite ministers with portfolios abandoned by the National Party. Page 13



Competitors in a wheelchair marathon from Land's End to John O'Groats launch their journey at Kensington Palace yesterday. Simon Barnes, left, Mark Reynolds and Chris Madden were seen off by the Princess of Wales, to raise cash for spinal research.

BUSINESS

Gas: Doubts hung over the future of Transco, the profitable pipelines division of British Gas, and of the restructuring of the whole company after yesterday's price control plans from Ofgas proved to be tougher than expected. Page 27

Agelism: Business leaders launched an initiative to end age discrimination at work — although they ruled out new legislation to outlaw it. Page 27

Economy: Prices charged by British factories in April showed their lowest annual growth since December 1994 despite a surge in the cost of imported crude oil and food. City economists predicted that retail price inflation would continue to drop in the months ahead, helping to keep base rates low. Page 27

SPORT

Rugby union: Neil Back was suspended for six months by the Rugby Football Union for his petulant push on Steve Lander, the referee, at the end of the Pilkington Cup final. Page 52

Football: Ken Bates, Chelsea's chairman, appears to have the upper hand in his power struggle with Matthew Harding, one of the club's leading directors. Page 52

Cricket: David Foltlett took eight for 22, the best bowling figures at Lord's for 20 years, as Middlesex dismissed Durham for 67, their lowest total as a first-class county. Page 52

Golf: Laura Davies was celebrating her third major title, the McDonald's LPGA Championship, after her best finish. Page 47

ARTS

Morrismania: The Victoria and Albert Museum leads a celebration of William Morris. His centenary year is marked by a reassessment of his interior design. Page 44

Cannes delights: Mike Leigh's new movie, *Secrets and Lies*, leads a strong lineup of British films in competition at the Cannes Festival, while Robert Altman falls flat with his new *Kansas City*. Page 45

Doctor's friend: Maureen Lawrence's new two-hander *Resurrection*, now at the Bush Theatre, is a gauche look at the life of the 18th-century "noble savage" Francis Barber. Page 45

Going strong: The octogenarian composer Henri Dutilleul takes part in a London festival of French music. Page 46

FEATURES

A real find: Thousands of people flock to the *Antiques Roadshow* hoping that their offering might appear on TV. Is it for fame or knowledge that they queue for hours? Page 15

Here comes summer, day two: Does what you eat really affect your health, behaviour and personality? Page 14

Dr Thomas Shattoford: Regular use of tobacco and alcohol can cause cancer of the tonsils. Page 14

Wonderlandish reasons: Inquest law seems wary of going further than a death by natural causes verdict. Pages 37, 39

Price of place: The price of a university place, the best summer jobs and the different living styles of university towns. Pages 42, 43

According to reliable sources China is preparing to begin a new nuclear test on its site at Lop Nor. Although this country is, of all the nuclear powers, the one which has carried out the least number of tests, it cannot put itself so obviously in contradiction with the sensitivity of the era on such a subject without submitting to major international disgrace. — *Le Monde*

Naamdi Azikiwe, former President of Nigeria; Joan Thirkettle, ITN news reporter. Page 19

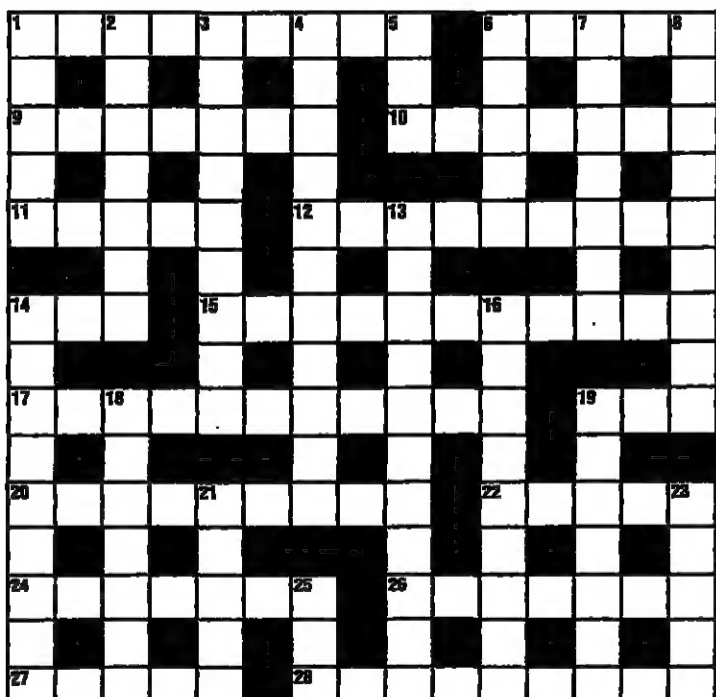
British trade options outside EU: long-term care reforms; Chaplaincy rules on homosexuals. Page 17

TOMORROW

■ FASHION
Rediscovered for summer: classic styles of flattering swimwear

■ INTERFACE
In our guide to new technology: how Britain lost the European space race... plus, win two multimedia PCs, each worth £1,600

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,167



- ACROSS
- 1 Studying the form of mounts (9).
 - 2 Muslim city in grip of doctrine (5).
 - 3 Medley including nothing after long jazz piece (7).
 - 4 A worry with computer memory — its rearranged characters (7).
 - 5 Searches throughout earth for solutions (5).
 - 6 Broadcast of *Lucretia Borgia's* No. 3 on the network (9).
 - 7 Kings appears to be provocative (3).
 - 8 Want a little money once for first part of repayment (11).
 - 9 Eager consumer's payment mostly pinched by crooked merchant (11).
 - 10 What's visible from position on board (even though docked)? (3).
 - 11 These are translatable as "sliding" (9).
 - 12 Uninspiring religious observance at front of temple (5).
 - 13 Silly clipped way of speaking, a nervous response (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,166

BEANO DISCARDED
LANDOWNER MISTY
ANANARCE
COMETINCOINSON
LAWSON
ALPINE SETSCREW
VINEY
AMPERAGE EMBERS
SEABAT
MAJAMARCHARE
URTY
SHELE NISHTGMIN
LAU
COMPLAINT ALTAIR

- DOWN
- 1 Suggestion's inappropriate, meeting hesitation (5).
 - 2 It restricts movements of rower or limits a rugby forward (7).
 - 3 Sort of music from harp disco oddly used (9).
 - 4 Changing shape involves skin mostly being constrained to fit (11).
 - 5 Agreement with conclusions of jury — and vice versa (3).
 - 6 Man's name — it is visible in the first clue (5).
 - 7 Rock singer's traditional stuff sure to be forgotten in more relaxed times (7).
 - 8 Notes from me, and doctor hurried to lawyer (9).
 - 9 A crowded reign? (11).
 - 10 Trying it out, injecting Ecstasy? So much for upright attitude! (9).
 - 11 Burn without topping? Without topping and overlooked (9).
 - 12 Preference for flower? It is found in a tree (7).
 - 13 I'm consumed by terrible lust, one providing incentives (7).
 - 14 Demonstrated a fabric (5).
 - 15 Praise former work after one's dismissal (5).
 - 16 It could be either end of whipper (3).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, call 0991 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hertford & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Dorset	705
Berkshire, Oxford	706
Bedford, Hertford & Essex	707
Northampton, Cambridgeshire	708
West Midlands & Shropshire	709
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Cymru	715
NW England	716
W & S Wales & Wales	717
NE England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S & W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
East of Scotland & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
NW Scotland	725
Cashmere, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, call 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	721
South Herts, Beds, Bucks/Borks/Oxon	722
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	723
Wiltshire/Dorset	724
Devon/Cornwall	725
Berkshire/Oxford	726
Bedford/Herts/Essex	727
Northampton/Cambridgeshire	728
West Midlands/Shropshire	729
Shropshire/Hereford/Worcester	730
Central Midlands	731
East Midlands	732
Lincoln/Humberside	733
Dyfed/Powys	734
Gwynedd/Cymru	735
NW England	736
W & S Wales/Wales	737
NE England	738
Cumbria/Lake District	739
S & W Scotland	740
W Central Scotland	741
East of Scotland/Borders	742
E Central Scotland	743
Grampian/E Highlands	744
NW Scotland	745
Cashmere/Orkney/Shetland	746
N Ireland	747

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temperature, lowest day temperature, highest night temperature, lowest night temperature.

London	15.0	10.0	12.0	8.0
Edinburgh	14.0	9.0	11.0	7.0
Belfast	13.0	8.0	10.0	6.0
Birmingham	12.0	7.0	9.0	5.0
Cardiff	11.0	6.0	8.0	4.0
Manchester	10.0	5.0	7.0	3.0
Newcastle	9.0	4.0	6.0	2.0
Nottingham	8.0	3.0	5.0	1.0
Sheffield	7.0	2.0	4.0	0.0
Southampton	6.0	1.0	3.0	-1.0
Stockholm	5.0	0.0	2.0	-2.0
Trondheim	4.0	-1.0	1.0	-3.0
Oslo	3.0	-2.0	0.0	-4.0
Reykjavik	2.0	-3.0	-1.0	-5.0
Stockholm	1.0	-4.0	-2.0	-6.0
Trondheim	0.0	-5.0	-3.0	-7.0
Oslo	-1.0	-6.0	-4.0	-8.0
Reykjavik	-2.0	-7.0	-5.0	-9.0
Stockholm	-3.0	-8.0	-6.0	-10.0
Trondheim	-4.0	-9.0	-7.0	-11.0
Oslo	-5.0	-10.0	-8.0	-12.0
Reykjavik	-6.0	-11.0	-9.0	-13.0
Stockholm	-7.0	-12.0	-10.0	-14.0
Trondheim	-8.0	-13.0	-11.0	-15.0
Oslo	-9.0	-14.0	-12.0	-16.0
Reykjavik	-10.0	-15.0	-13.0	-17.0
Stockholm	-11.0	-16.0	-14.0	-18.0
Trondheim	-12.0	-17.0	-15.0	-19.0
Oslo	-13.0	-18.0	-16.0	-20.0
Reykjavik	-14.0	-19.0	-17.0	-21.0
Stockholm	-15.0	-20.0	-18.0	-22.0
Trondheim	-16.0	-21.0	-19.0	-23.0
Oslo	-17.0	-22.0	-20.0	-24.0
Reykjavik	-18.0	-23.0	-21.0	-25.0
Stockholm	-19.0	-24.0	-22.0	-26.0
Trondheim	-20.0	-25.0	-23.0	-27.0
Oslo	-21.0	-26.0	-24.0	-28.0
Reykjavik	-22.0	-27.0	-25.0	-29.0
Stockholm	-23.0	-28.0	-26.0	-30.0
Trondheim	-24.0	-29.0	-27.0	-31.0
Oslo	-25.0	-30.0	-28.0	-32.0
Reykjavik	-26.0	-31.0	-29.0	-33.0
Stockholm	-27.0	-32.0	-30.0	-34.0
Trondheim	-28.0	-33.0	-31.0	-35.0
Oslo	-29.0	-34.0	-32.0	-36.0
Reykjavik	-30.0	-35.0	-33.0	-37.0
Stockholm	-31.0	-36.0	-34.0	-38.0
Trondheim	-32.0	-37.0	-35.0	-39.0
Oslo	-33.0	-38.0	-36.0	-40.0
Reykjavik	-34.0	-39.0	-37.0	-41.0
Stockholm	-35.0	-40.0	-38.0	-42.0
Trondheim	-36.0	-41.0	-39.0	-43.0
Oslo	-37.0	-42.0	-40.0	-44.0
Reykjavik	-38.0	-43.0	-41.0	-45.0
Stockholm	-39.0	-44.0	-42.0	-46.0
Trondheim	-40.0	-45.0	-43.0	-47.0
Oslo	-41.0	-46.0	-44.0	-48.0
Reykjavik	-42.0	-47.0	-45.0	-49.0
Stockholm	-43.0	-48.0	-46.0	-50.0
Trondheim	-44.0	-49.0	-47.0	-51.0
Oslo	-45.0	-50.0	-48.0	-52.0
Reykjavik	-46.0	-51.0	-49.0	-53.0
Stockholm	-47.0	-52.0	-50.0	-54.0
Trondheim	-48.0	-53.0	-51.0	-55.0
Oslo	-49.0	-54.0	-52.0	-56.0
Reykjavik	-50.0	-55.0	-53.0	-57.0
Stockholm	-51.0	-56.0	-54.0	-58.0
Trondheim	-52.0	-57.0	-55.0	-59.0
Oslo	-53.0	-58.0	-56.0	-60.0
Reykjavik	-54.0	-59.0	-57.0	-61.0
Stockholm	-55.0	-60.0	-58.0	-62.0
Trondheim	-56.0	-61.0	-59.0	-63.0
Oslo	-57.0	-62.0	-60.0	-64.0
Reykjavik	-58.0	-63.0	-61.0	-65.0
Stockholm	-59.0	-64.0	-62.0	-66.0
Trondheim	-60.0	-65.0	-63.0	-67.0
Oslo	-61.0	-66.0	-64.0	-68.0
Reykjavik	-62.0	-67.0	-65.0	-69.0
Stockholm	-63.0	-68.0	-66.0	-70.0
Trondheim	-64.0	-69.0	-67.0	-71.0
Oslo	-65.0	-70.0	-68.0	-72.0
Reykjavik	-66.0	-71.0	-69.0	-73.0
Stockholm	-67.0	-72.0	-70.0	-74.0
Trondheim	-68.0	-73.0	-71.0	-75.0
Oslo	-69.0	-74.0	-72.0	-76.0
Reykjavik	-70.0	-75.0	-73.0	-77.0
Stockholm	-71.0	-76.0	-74.0	-78.0
Trondheim	-72.0	-77.0	-75.0	-79.0
Oslo	-73.0	-78.0	-76.0	-80.0
Reykjavik	-74.0	-79.0	-77.0	-81.0
Stockholm	-75.0	-80.0	-78.0	-82.0
Trondheim	-76.0	-81.0	-79.0	-83.0
Oslo	-77.0	-82.0	-80.0	-84.0
Reykjavik	-78.0	-83.0	-81.0	-85.0
Stockholm	-79.0	-84.0	-82.0	-86.0
Trondheim	-80.0	-85.0	-83.0	-87.0
Oslo	-81.0	-86.0	-84.0	-88.0
Reykjavik	-82.0	-87.0	-85.0	-89.0
Stockholm	-83.0	-88.0	-86.0	-90.0
Trondheim	-84.0	-89.0	-87.0	-91.0
Oslo	-85.0	-90.0	-88.0	-92.0
Reykjavik	-86.0	-91.0	-89.0	-93.0
Stockholm	-87.0	-92.0	-90.0	-94.0
Trondheim	-88.0	-93.0	-91.0	-95.0
Oslo	-89.0	-94.0	-92.0	-96.0
Reykjavik	-90.0	-95.0	-93.0	-97.0
Stockholm	-91.0	-96.0	-94.0	-98.0
Trondheim	-92.0	-97.0	-95.0	-99.0
Oslo	-93.0	-98.0	-96.0	-100.0

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have a dry sunny day after any early-morning mist or fog patches clear away. Temperatures will be a degree or so down on yesterday's and winds will be light.

Much of Scotland, along with Northern Ireland will also be dry, but there will be a few light showers in places exposed to the north and west. Overnight there will be rather less mistiness, but there will be a widespread ground frost with air frost in well sheltered spots.

London, E Midlands, W Midlands, S Wales, Central N England: dry with clear or sunny spells after early mist. Winds light to moderate, northeasterly. Max 12C (54F).

SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E England, Channel Isles, SW England: dry with clear or sunny spells.

Wind light to moderate, northeasterly. Max 14C (57F), cooler on coasts.

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow: dry with clear or sunny spells after early mist clears. Wind light, east or northeasterly. Max 14C (57F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen: clear or sunny spells with perhaps a shower. Wind light to moderate, northeasterly. Max 11C (52F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: clear or sunny spells and showers, perhaps wintry on higher ground, clearer later. Wind moderate, northeasterly. Max 12C (54F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: remaining mainly dry, showers in the north.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b = bright; c = cloud; d = drizzle; ds = dust storm; du = dust; f = fog; g = gale; h = hail; r = rain; sh = shower; sl = sleet; sn = snow; s = sun; t = thunder

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Aberdeen	10.0	15.0	59	10.0	15.0	59
Angus	12.0	13.0	55	12.0	13.0	55
Arundel	10.0	10.0	14	10.0	10.0	14
Avonmouth	12.0	13.0		12.0	13.0	
Barnstaple	10.0	10.0	14	10.0	10.0	14
Birmingham	10.7	16.7	61	10.7	16.7	61
Bognor R	10.0	17.0	63	10.0	17.0	63
Bournemouth	10.7	16.7	61	10.7	16.7	61
Brigsteil	10.0	17.0	63	10.0	17.0	63
Cardiff	14.7	16.0	61	14.7	16.0	61
Cardigan	13.2	15.0	54	13.2	15.0	54
Cardiff	14.7	16.0	61	14.7	16.0	61
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